



Federation of Small Businesses

The UK's Leading Business Organisation

Conservative Party Manifesto – Small Business Issues

Finance and Tax

- To reduce the impact of the increase in National Insurance (NI) to 13.8 percent by raising the primary and secondary NI tax thresholds
- To exempt new businesses from paying NI on their first ten employees for year for two years.
- To use Government guarantees to create more diverse sources of affordable finance for SMEs.
- To simplify the tax system by cutting the main rate of corporation tax to 20 pence for small companies and remove complicated tax reliefs.

[See the FSB campaign on NICs](#)

Employment

- To abolish the Default Retirement Age
- To reinvigorate occupational pensions and work with employers and industry to support auto-enrolment into pensions.
- To build a network of business mentors and provide loans to would-be entrepreneurs, supporting self-employment and franchising as a route back into work
- To give SME's a £2,000 bonus for every apprentice they hire.

[Read the FSB's report on employment](#)

Flexible Working and Equalities

- To extend a right to request flexible working to everyone.
- To allow parents to share maternity leave between them.

[Read the University of Westminster Report sponsored by the FSB](#)

Regulation

- To reduce the number of forms needed to register a new business - with the aim of making Britain the fastest place in the world to start a business and ending the restrictions on social housing tenants starting a business from their homes.
- To reduce the burden of red tape on business with a 'one in one out' rule for new regulations, mandatory sunset clauses and regulatory budgets for departments.

Infrastructure

- To build a high-speed rail line connecting London, Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds with the Continent through the Channel Tunnel, with construction to begin in 2015.
- To make utility companies that dig up roads accountable for congestion caused.
- To ensure that overseas trucks contribute towards the cost of road maintenance.

Environment

- To create a truly smart electricity grid.

Keeping Trade Local

- To open up government procurement to SMEs by reducing administrative requirements, with an ambition that 25 per cent of government contracts go to SMEs
[Read an FSB Report on Procurement](#)
- To make small business rate relief automatic.
[See the FSB Private Members Bill](#)
- To reduce police bureaucracy and get more officers on the beat
[See the FSB business beat campaign](#)
- To reform regional business support to create business-led Local Economic Partnerships to respond to local business needs.
- To revive the rural economy, by reducing the barriers to business growth and creating incentives for rural development.

[READ THE FSB'S ELECTION MANIFESTO, 'SMALL BUSINESSES, BIG VOTE'](#)

ENDS