



Federation of Small Businesses

The UK's Leading Business Organisation

Labour Party Manifesto – Small Business Issues

Finance and Tax

- To increase National Insurance Contributions by 1p except for anyone earning under £20,000
[See the FSB campaign on NICs](#)
- To establish a UK Finance for Growth Fund of £4billion for: SMEs in need of finance; providing incentives for companies to invest through R&D tax credits; and to make additional capital available to social enterprises through the Social Investment Bank.
- To continue the 'Time to Pay' scheme – one-year holiday on business rates for small businesses; widening support for training and apprenticeships; doubling the Entrepreneurs Relief lifetime limit to £2 million.
- To create a new Small Business Credit Adjudicator.

Employment

- To end the default retirement at 65
- To increase the National Minimum Wage at least in line with average earnings, and introduce a £40-a-week Better Off in Work guarantee.
[Read the FSB's report on employment](#)

Equality, Flexible Working and Childcare

- To give more help for parents to balance work and family life, with a 'Father's Month' of flexible paid leave.
- To introduce a right to request flexible working for older workers
- To encourage employers to make greater use of pay reviews and equality checks to eliminate unfair pay gaps, including inequalities in pay between men and women.
- To expand free nursery places for two year olds and 15 hours a week of flexible, free nursery education for three and four year olds.
[Read FSB's one page briefing on nurseries](#) (February 2010)

Regulation:

- To reduce the costs of regulation by more than £6 billion by 2015.
- In the construction sector, to strive to ensure fairness at work for all employees, aiming to crackdown on exploitative gang-masters and rogue employers.
- In the construction sector, to extend the licensing approach to labour providers in the construction industry, if the evidence shows that is the best way to enforce employment rights.

Infrastructure:

- To invest over £1 billion in broadband services over the next seven years.
[See FSB Press Release on this](#)
- Commitment to a new high-speed rail line, linking North and South.
- Ruling out of national road pricing in the next Parliament.
- Support for the third runway at Heathrow.

Environment

- To set up a Green Investment Bank to invest in low-carbon infrastructure, with the Government's stake funded by the sale of infrastructure assets.
- Commitment to 'Pay as You Save' financing schemes under which home energy improvements can be paid for from the savings they generate on energy bills.

Keeping Trade Local:

- To introduce a People's Bank at the Post Office.
[See the FSB's Postal Report](#)
- To curb restrictive covenants applied by pub companies to property sales and introduce flexibility for pubs to provide related services promoted, making it easier to have live entertainment without a licence.
[Read the FSB Pubco Report](#) (August 2009)
- To strengthen and consolidate Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and give support at a local level to the public and businesses in the fight against crime.
[See the FSB business beat campaign](#)
- To create a Supermarket Ombudsman.

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

ENDS