



# Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

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### Small Business Finance

The FSB's Chief Spokesman Stephen Alambritis was part of a panel of experts on BBC Radio 4's Moneybox programme. This popular programme lasts for half an hour and has a large audience reach. The programme took calls from listeners on a range of issues. [Listen again](#) to Stephen's answers and the immense coverage obtained by the FSB.

### Part-time work

The FSB welcomed the surprise fall in unemployment in [The Guardian](#) this week, but voiced concern that small businesses that took on part-time and seasonal workers in the run up to Christmas need Government help to make them into permanent members of staff.

### Pension reform podcast

[Listen](#) to the FSB's National Chairman John Wright as well as the Chief Executive of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority talk about the affects the 2012 automatic enrolment pension reform will have on small firms. The FSB also voiced concern that the Government has underestimated the cost of the pension reform for small firms in the [Financial Advisor](#).

### Scrapping free parking

The FSB told the [Evening Standard](#) that scrapping free evening parking in the West End could cost small businesses millions of pounds if customers stayed away as a result.

### Reduce regulation

The FSB is calling for small businesses to tell us their biggest regulatory bug-bears so we can tell Government what regulation needs to be changed or removed completely. [Find out more](#) and give us your views.

### Online markets

The Office of Fair Trading is undertaking research into online markets, looking at how small businesses are trading online and the issues they face such as barriers to entry and problems with online services platforms. [Contact](#) OFT for more information.

### Digital Britain

The FSB is concerned with proposals in the Government's Digital Economy Bill suggesting that small businesses offering WiFi to customers would be liable for illicit downloads and could expect to be taken to court for damages or, if 'technical measures' are imposed, have their internet service rendered unusable for shared access or even disconnected. The FSB is urging members to raise their concerns by signing a [Number 10 petition](#).

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