



Weekly Brief

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Small Business, Big Vote

The FSB launched its General Election 2010 Campaign Manifesto at the House of Commons this week. The FSB is urging Government to give small businesses a helping hand to get back to business to help to strengthen economic recovery and reminding MPs that small businesses have a big vote. You can watch the [video](#), view the [photos](#) of the event and read the [manifesto](#) or visit www.fsb.org.uk/election2010.

GDP figures

The FSB welcomed the news that the UK economy just emerged from recession in January with a 0.1 per cent increase in GDP. Read coverage in [The Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [BBC online](#) or [listen again](#) to some of the many interviews which took place.

Apprenticeship briefing event

The Government is offering small businesses £2,500 towards the salary and training costs of every young apprentice they employ. A free [Apprenticeship Briefing](#) will be held on 4 February 2010, with the Minister for Apprentices, Iain Wright MP, and FSB Policy Chairman Colin Willman, to explain how you can access this funding.

Mass lobby in Strasbourg

The FSB and the European Small Business Alliance took part in a mass lobbying event of MEP's to support proposals to exclude micro businesses from certain laws resulting in reduced accounting requirements. View the [briefing](#) and [photographs](#) from the event.

Paternity leave changes

Government plans to extend paternity leave to six months came under question by business organisations this week. Read some of the FSB's comments in the [Daily Mail](#) and [City AM](#).

BBC Three audience debate

BBC Three is looking for audience members aged between 16 and 32 to participate in a debate about the recession. Chaired by Robert Peston, the programme will examine who's to blame and why it matters. If you want to take part [contact](#) the BBC for details.

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.

Follow the FSB on Facebook

You can follow the activities of the FSB by joining our official fanpage on Facebook. [Become a fan](#) to view regularly updated events, photo galleries, lobbying information and interactive content.

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