



Weekly Brief

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Government still paying late

The FSB urged the Government to include a Social Clause in all Government contracts to ensure that all invoices are paid on time, as the FSB-ICM 'Voice of Small Business' Annual Report showed that one in three payments from the public sector are still paid late. Read the coverage in the [Financial Times](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [Daily Telegraph](#) and [listen](#) to the podcast.

FSB Annual Dinner 2010

[Look at](#) the pictures from the FSB Annual Dinner where Lord Mandelson gave the keynote speech.

OFT opens consultation on CAMRA super-complaint decision

After much lobbying from the FSB, consumer and publican groups, the Office of Fair Trading has opened another investigation into the tied pub sector and has published a [consultation](#) on its initial response to the super-complaint on the 'beer tie' submitted by the Campaign for Real Ale. The FSB believes the tie as it stands is unfair and is calling for reform to eliminate anti-competitive practices in the industry.

Budget win north of the border.

The FSB in Scotland had a key win when higher thresholds of their Small Business Rates Relief were announced this week. Any firm with a rateable value of under £18,000 will now get some relief and the 100 per cent relief threshold has been boosted to £10,000. More details on the [Scottish Government webpage](#).

Small business and families

The FSB, in conjunction with HR magazine, is holding a seminar and reception on family friendly workplaces. Given the present economic context, the event will address the challenge of maintaining business support for families throughout the recession and into recovery. Theresa May MP, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary and Shadow Minister for Women is sponsoring the event and speaking at the reception, on 25 February 2pm – 5.45pm in the House of Commons. Attendance is free and light refreshments will be provided. If you would like to attend, or require more information, please contact holly.conway@fsb.org.uk

Electoral Roll consultation

The Government could abolish the edited electoral roll which organisations can buy from local authorities and use for any purpose. It is [consulting](#) on the issue after a review of Government data handling recommended that it be scrapped. If you have concerns about this, please email priyen.patel@fsb.org.uk

FSB EU newsletter

[Read](#) a short summary of the FSB's activities in Brussels and the latest issues affecting small businesses.

FSB welcomes French to London

On 28 January FSB National Chairman John Wright welcomed a delegation of the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (Movement of the French Enterprises) who were on a fact-finding visit in London. [Read](#) more about it.

Contract opportunities

The FSB has worked with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to launch an awareness raising campaign to promote greater access for smaller firms to the £220 billion worth of contract opportunities awarded by the public sector each year. The OGC has also published the [guidance](#) showing how the public sector can make it easier for small businesses to identify contract opportunities and a free online public procurement [course](#) to help smaller firms bid for contracts.

Work Inspiration

Business in the Community is driving innovation in work experience and is looking for businesses to offer work experience to young people. www.workinspiration.com.

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.

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