



Weekly Brief

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UK taxes prevent small firms from recruiting

Research by the FSB and ICM showed that 58 per cent of small businesses feel the UK tax system has prevented them from taking on more staff. Read the [press release](#) and coverage in the [Independent](#) and on the [BBC online](#).

Four out of five people want a Post Bank

A YouGov poll revealed by the Post Bank Coalition shows that just under four out of five people want a publically run bank and just over three out of five say they are likely to use such a bank at the Post Office. Read the [press release](#).

Real Help Now site set up

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has set up a [webpage](#) dedicated to its Real Help Now scheme, which offers a range of practical support to help businesses through the recession and return to growth.

Fit Note guidance launched

The Department for Work and Pensions has released guidance for GPs and businesses on the Fit Note, due to come into force from April. The Fit Note, which replaces the sick note, will get employees back to work sooner and is expected to benefit the British economy by an estimated £240 million over the next ten years. Read about it in the [Daily Mail](#).

Anti-corruption portal

The Bribery Bill is currently being discussed in Parliament and will introduce a new corporate offence for failing to prevent bribery in a business. Businesses can access information about anti-corruption initiatives, due diligence tests and country profiles [here](#).

John Wright visit to Afghanistan

John Wright visited Reservists in Afghanistan in January as part of the Ministry of Defence and SaBRE's [campaign](#) to raise awareness among employers of the valuable skills Reservists develop through training and to see the role they play in the country.

Health at Work seminars

The British Heart Foundation is holding a Health at Work seminar in Birmingham (17 March) and London (22 March). [Find out more](#).

Open for Dogs

The Kennel Club has launched an Open for Dogs scheme to get all businesses that accept dogs on the premises to display a [sticker](#) to tell dog owners their canine companions are welcome.

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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