



Weekly Brief

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FSB Budget submission

The FSB has discovered that Flat Rate VAT has risen to a higher level for the smallest businesses and is urging the Government to review the issue in the Budget in which we are also calling for a freeze in National Insurance Contributions. Read the [press release](#), the [FSB's Budget Submission 2010](#) and coverage in the [Daily Telegraph](#).

Say 'no' to NICs rise

The FSB and other business organisations are urging small firms to sign a petition to say 'no' to the planned one per cent rise employer National Insurance Contributions. Read the [press release](#), sign the [petition](#) and read the coverage in the [Financial Times](#).

BIS Pubco report

A Department of Business Innovation and Skills committee has published a report highlighting its concerns about the imbalance of power between pub companies and licensees, saying that unless things change in the next year, pub companies will have to face the Competition Commission. With over 50 pubs closing per week, the FSB welcomed the report but urged the Government to take the issue to the Competition Commission now, rather than wait a year. [Find out more](#) and read the coverage in the [Daily Mail](#).

UK tax regime stopping business expansion

The FSB-ICM 'Voice of Small Business' survey panel found that three-quarters of respondents believe their businesses are failing to grow because of complex tax rules. Read the [press release](#), [survey results](#) and coverage in the [Financial Times](#).

Graduate Internship Scheme

The Graduate Internship Scheme launched earlier this year is up and running and Universities are offering businesses a subsidy of around £100 per week to take on a graduate in the next year. If you are interested, or can promote this scheme to other small businesses, please contact the national single point of contact on 0845 072 7597 or [click here](#).

Shopkeepers needed

Wall to Wall TV is looking for a baker, butcher, grocer and their families to feature in a new, prime-time BBC ONE series charting the history of the British High Street from 1870 – 1970. If you are interested, get in touch on 020 7241 9232.

The Business Inspector

HMRC is urging small businesses to watch 'The Business Inspector', a new four-part TV series launching on Five at 8pm on Wednesday 17 March. It aims to remind small businesses of the importance of keeping good records. Each week presenter Hilary Devey, will visit two small businesses to advise them how to improve processes, systems, strategy and direction.

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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