



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

Weekly Brief

Week 10 of 2010 Friday 12 March 2010

Small businesses dissatisfied with broadband service

As the Digital Economy Bill is debated in the House of Lords, figures from the latest FSB-ICM 'Voice of Small Business' survey panel show that a quarter of small firms are dissatisfied with their broadband service. Of those small firms that are dissatisfied, six in 10 (63%) said they are unhappy with the speed and reliability of their internet connection supplied by their service provider. Read the [press release](#) and the [survey results](#).

George Osborne confirmed for Conference 2010

Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne MP will address the FSB Annual Conference next week alongside Lord Mandelson and the First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond. More from www.fsb.org.uk/conference2010

National Chairman grills Shadow Chancellor

The FSB's National Chairman John Wright was part of a panel of experts firing questions at Shadow Chancellor George Osborne about what the Conservative Party would do if it wins the General Election. He was encouraged that small business pleas were heard and you can read all about it in this Sunday's News of The World. A video of the event will also be available on www.notw.co.uk

Sector skills agreement

The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils and the FSB have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to make employer accepted qualifications more relevant to the needs of micro and small businesses. This follows an FSB report in May 2009 which highlighted the problems faced by small businesses in engaging with the skills agenda. Pictures from the signing will be available on the FSB website soon.

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 in employer National Insurance Contributions. Read the [press release](#) and sign the [petition](#).

BBC series on environmental crime

Leopard Films is making a new documentary series for BBC One daytime about environmental crime, focussing on crimes like fly-tipping and graffiti. They want to see how these issues affect private landowners and businesses and highlight the work that is actively done to prevent these crimes. If you're interested in taking part [email](#) or phone 020 7288 2184.

Business sustainability event

A bursary has been set up by the organisers of the 'business and a sustainable environment' (base) exhibition for small businesses to attend the event free of charge at London's ExCeL 16-17 March. The bursary will allow entry to the exhibition and one conference session, plus access to free workshops and round table discussions. More from www.baseshow.co.uk or email andrew.dowding@basecommunications.co.uk

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](#).

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.

Like what you read?

Bookmark this page using social media sites such as [Delicious](#), [Digg](#), [reddit](#), [StumbleUpon](#), and keep in the loop about the FSB's activities by subscribing to our [RSS feed](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).