



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

Week 30 of 2010 Friday 30 July 2010

BIS open consultation to give businesses better access to finance

The FSB welcomed the Government's consultation that highlights its commitment to getting the bank's lending to small businesses again and its proposal to look at alternative sources of finance such as a National Loan Guarantee scheme and regional stock exchanges. Read [BISs report](#) and if you have access, the FSB was quoted in [The Sunday Times](#).

Boom in small businesses, but with a legal sting in the tail

Concerns surrounding the tax implications for self-employed people that go to work for other companies was the subject of a radio day with Abbey Legal and FSB this week, with over 20 interviews taking place across the UK. Read the [press release](#) and coverage in the [Daily Mail](#) and [BBC Online](#).

Broadband for Business breakfast

Policy Chairman, Mike Cherry chaired a Broadband for Business Breakfast meeting at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Ed Vaizey the Minister for Broadband was there to discuss broadband plans with the FSB. View the [photos](#).

Government urged to increase road salt levels

An independent panel has put forward FSB recommendations to Government in its winter resilience review. It has said that a simple code of practice be set up which would provide local authorities, households and businesses with clear advice and also that the Government should increase salt levels before the winter months, to better manage the bad weather. [Find out more](#).

LEPs roundtable event

The FSB took part in a roundtable event with BIS this week to discuss the development of Local Enterprise Partnerships. The meeting was very constructive and highlighted the issues that small businesses face and that the partnerships should have the needs of small and micro businesses at the forefront of their consideration.

Victory on Furnished Holiday Lettings

The FSB has won a major victory in persuading the Treasury to adopt FSB proposals which will prevent eight in 10 small businesses in the holiday sector from going bust. Under current rules, businesses in the holiday sector must be available to rent for at least 20 weeks of the year and must be rented for 10 weeks. Now the Treasury is proposing to increase this to 15 weeks. Read our [consultation response](#) and the [Treasury's proposals](#).

Immigration evidence says no to cap

David Ramsden, a member of the FSB's Employment Committee, gave evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs regarding the inquiry into the immigration cap. On the same subject, John Walker, FSB National Chairman, recently attended the annual dinner of the Federation of Bangladeshi Caterers where the issue of economic migrants was also a very hot topic.

High Speed Rail

The Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond MP announced this week that exceptional hardship loans will be introduced to provide assistance for those most severely affected by HS2 Ltd's proposed line. Applications can be made from 20 August.

Case study requests

With the launch of the Government consultation on banks, there is much interest from the national media in talking to businesses who have had difficulty in accessing finance, have seen rates increase substantially on existing loans or that are about to embark on applying for a loan and wouldn't mind being followed through the process. [Email](#) if you are interested in taking part.

Work with the MoD?

The FSB is currently writing a report on how SMEs engage with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), what works well and what does not work so well. This report will be delivered to Peter Luff MP, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology. If you have experience of working with the MoD or in the wider defence and security market, the FSB would [like to hear](#) from you.

What do you love about work?

The BBC is making a four part social history series about how our attitudes to work and the workplace have changed since 1945 and is looking for people who started work in the 1980s, 1990s or 2000s to talk about their working experiences in manufacturing, services, retail and offices, as well as those who have set up their own business. [Email](#) for more information.

Interested in being in First Voice?

First Voice magazine is interested to know whether any FSB members exhibited at the recent Farnborough Air Show or attended the Show as trade visitors. [Get in touch](#) if you are interested in talking about it.

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 have the opportunity to add your own photos and discuss current small business issues.

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](#).