



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

Weekly Brief

Week 41 of 2009 Friday 16 October 2009

Postal strikes confirmed for next week

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) this week confirmed two 24 hour postal strikes to take place next Thursday and Friday. The FSB has continued to warn about the impact of industrial action on small businesses and is urging the CWU and Royal Mail to get back to the negotiating table, as reported in [The Independent](#) and the [Morning Star](#).

Small businesses on the up

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has released up to date figures on the amount of small businesses in the UK and their impact on the UK economy – showing an increase in enterprises and jobs created by them. View the [small business statistics](#).

Get your MP to help stop the blockades

Liberal Democrat MP Greg Mulholland has tabled an Early Day Motion raising awareness of the impact of port blockades by French fishing fleets on the UK haulage industry and urging action to prevent them. It follows the FSB's [Stop the Blockades](#) campaign. [View the EDM](#) and [write to your MP](#) to ask him or her to sign it.

Credit Crunch page

The FSB has polled thousands of its members over the duration of the economic downturn on their experiences of trade, late payment and access to credit. The results from the surveys between September 2008 and August 2009 can now be viewed on the [FSB website](#).

Congestion charge could choke small businesses

The FSB has expressed concern for businesses operating in Central London after Mayor Boris Johnson unveiled plans to increase the congestion charge to £10. View coverage in the [Evening Standard](#).

FSB Green List

The FSB is compiling a 'Green List' of businesses demonstrating energy efficiency and environmental awareness in the workplace. [View some of the entrants](#) so far and [share your own good and bad experiences](#).

Get prepared for swine flu

The swine flu virus is on the rise again with the Health Protection Agency recording an increase in cases this week. [Find out how your business can be prepared](#).

Don't forget to complete the Voice of Small Business Annual Survey

The FSB is working with new survey partner ICM Research to deliver the *FSB-ICM 'The Voice of Small Business Annual Survey'*. Questionnaires have been sent out to members. Don't forget to complete it! Also sign up to the Survey Panel so we can make your voice heard more regularly, particularly at this crucial time in the run up to the General Election.

Follow the FSB on Facebook

You can now follow the activities of the FSB by joining our brand new official fanpage on Facebook. [Become a fan](#) to view regularly updated events, photo galleries, lobbying information and interactive content.

Help shape the future of electronic payment methods!

Bacs, the organisation behind Direct Debit and Bacs Direct Credit, is seeking businesses to take part in a discussion on electronic payment products aimed specifically at small and medium sized businesses. [Email us](#) to register your interest.

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 [RRS feed](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

Have a good weekend!