



Weekly Brief

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Be prepared for postal strikes

Postal workers began their first series of strikes this week. The FSB is raising awareness of the impact of industrial action on small businesses and is urging the Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail to return to the negotiating table. Read coverage of our concerns on [the BBC](#) and view advice from [BusinessLink](#) on preparing for the strikes.

Self-employed need self certification

The [Financial Services Authority](#) this week proposed scrapping self-certification in the mortgage market. The FSB is well aware of the impact this would have on the self-employed, read our reaction in the [Daily Express](#).

No better time to start a business

FSB National Chairman John Wright expounded the benefits of starting a small business in a foreword for a [Daily Express](#) supplement on entrepreneurship.

Banking on change

FSB Scottish Policy Convener, Andy Willox, was alongside Bank of England Governor, Mervyn King, as he delivered his hard-hitting speech to business leaders in Edinburgh on Tuesday night. Unsurprisingly, the Governor's stark message that there can be no return to the old reckless business practices which precipitated the banking crisis went down well with the FSB members in attendance.

From Tax to Town Centres - Scottish MPs Lobbied in Whitehall

Scottish MPs heard the small business case loud and clear when dozens of FSB members from Scotland attended a reception, hosted by Scotland Office Minister, Ann McKeichin, at Dover House in Whitehall on Wednesday. Issues from tax to town centres were debated with MPs from all parties, giving them plenty of food for thought ahead of the Pre-Budget Report.

FSB dines with Boris

The FSB Greater London Region hosted Mayor Boris Johnson at its Annual Autumn Dinner in the Guoman Tower Hotel this week, attended by hundreds of small businesses. Watch a video of the event.

Home Office maps out crime

The Home Office has launched a national map giving the public access to local statistics and details on neighbourhood policing in their area. It also features statistics on burglary, robbery, violence, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour in each area. View the [Crime Map](#).

How do you cope with asbestos

The Health and Safety Executive is seeking the views of small businesses about how they manage asbestos in their buildings and how they deal with regulation on it. [Email](#) your experiences.

Get organised to fight crime

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is hosting a free one-day conference for small businesses in and around London on how to safeguard themselves against organised crime and money laundering. It takes place on November 24 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Elstree, Hertfordshire. [Email SOCA](#) to find out more.

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.

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Have a good weekend!