



# Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

## Weekly Brief

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### **Alan Sugar stirs small businesses**

The FSB's National Council called for the Government's Enterprise Tsar Alan Sugar to resign this week after the organisation's members complained about Lord Sugar's language when describing small businesses. Read the coverage in the [Daily Express](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Financial Times](#), [The Times](#) and the [Evening Standard](#).

### **FSB welcomes latest bank bailouts**

The FSB this week welcomed action being taken by Chancellor Alistair Darling on the break-up of nationalised banks Lloyds and RBS and their involvement in the Government's 'Asset Protection' insurance scheme. The developments include new commitments on fair overdraft charges and a new 'Customer Charter' for lending to businesses, and should provide more competition on the high street – a key policy the FSB has been lobbying for. Read coverage in the [Daily Telegraph](#) and [Evening Standard](#).

### **Conservatives propose European Union employment law opt-outs**

The FSB gave a cautious welcome to a pledge from Conservative Party leader David Cameron to opt-out from some European Union employment laws. FSB National Chairman John Wright warned in the [Financial Times](#) that a lot of burdensome regulation originates in the UK.

### **How useful is CCTV?**

The BBC's Inside Out programme is looking for businesses that can talk about the usefulness of CCTV in reducing crime. [Email us](#) to share your experiences.

### **Get protected at work**

The Health and Safety Executive has released a guide on "Managing Work-related violence in licensed and retail premises". Visit the [website](#) to view the toolkit.

### **Valuable advice from the VOA**

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has issued a [fact sheet](#) to help businesses ensure they are not caught out by 'professionals', who offer help to reduce business rates bills but end up charging more in fees than they could ever save. Some less scrupulous 'rating agents' even claim to be working on behalf of the VOA to confuse business owners and drum up trade under false pretences. [Email us](#) if you have been targeted by rogue agents.

### **Follow the FSB on Facebook**

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Have a good weekend!