



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

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Week 47 of 2009 Friday 27 November 2009

FSB Flood fund

The FSB opened its £500,000 Disaster Recovery Fund to its members in Scotland, Cumbria, Lancashire and the North East of England last week to help those small businesses that have been affected by the floods. National Chairman, John Wright, visited Cockermouth in Cumbria this week to see how small businesses have been affected in the village. Read coverage in [The Times](#), the [BBC](#) and the [Daily Telegraph](#).

Tax changes

The FSB expressed concern that Government plans to change the tax rules on self-catering holiday properties could leave eight in ten going to the wall. Read the [press release](#).

Cheques to be bounced into history

Banks are set to vote next month on plans to abolish cheques. The FSB opposed the move in [The Times](#) and the [Daily Telegraph](#).

VAT rise

The FSB warned in the [Daily Telegraph](#) that the timing of VAT rise - from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent – on News Years Day will leave small firms very little to celebrate and is urging the Government to delay the rise until February 1.

Rip-Off Britain

Look out for the new series of Rip-Off Britain which starts on Monday on BBC 1 at 9.15am. You can watch the FSB on the show on November 30 discussing the Terminate the Rate campaign. Presenters include Angela Rippon.

Low Carbon – High Potential

Ahead of December's COP15, the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, the Department for Energy and Climate change has released a new video to encourage small businesses to take up opportunities to go green. Watch the [video](#).

Fire Safety

The Door and Hardware Federation are inviting members to take part in a survey on the Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005. [Find out more](#).

Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Valpak Retail Ltd has been re-appointed to operate the Distributor Take Back Scheme under Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations for the next three year phase, which starts in January 2010 and runs to December 2012. FSB members can get a discount. [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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and keep in the loop about the FSB's activities by subscribing to our [RSS feed](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

Have a good weekend!