



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

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Week 50 of 2009 Friday 18 December 2009

Save the Cheque

The FSB warned that the Payments Council's decision to phase out the cheque by 2018 is detrimental to small businesses and their customers that rely on the cheque. The FSB view was featured in the Financial Times, Daily Mirror. Read the coverage in [The Times](#), [The Guardian](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [The Sun](#).

Post Pre Budget weekend coverage

The FSB told the [Mail on Sunday](#), [The Observer](#) and the Financial Times that the one per cent increase in National Insurance that the Chancellor announced in his Pre Budget Report could leave small firms cutting a third of their staff as a result. This is part of the FSB's Pre Budget Report Analysis prepared by the policy unit. Read the [analysis](#).

Credit card charges

Hidden credit card fees to protect small firms from fraudsters are not very small business friendly, the FSB warned this week. Read the coverage in the [Daily Mail](#).

Fairer energy contracts

Last year energy regulator Ofgem completed a probe into Britain's energy supply market which included a detailed look at the small business sector of the market and the issues affecting it. The FSB was heavily involved in this and succeeded in achieving a number of concessions from energy companies to give small firms clearer and fairer contract terms. Read the [guidance](#).

TV Licensing

TV Licensing is reminding small firms to ensure they are covered by a TV License if staff are watching TV at work this Christmas, including watching or recording TV as it is broadcast on the business premises as well as on the internet. Businesses that are not properly covered risk a fine of up to £1,000. Find out more [information](#).

Slips and trips

Shattered Lives campaign 2010 is looking for small businesses that have put measures in the workplace to help reduce slips, trips and falls for the benefit of workers and the business. Shattered Lives 2010 would like to know what changes you have made and how they have improved things, such as cost savings and fewer accidents. [Contact Shattered Lives](#) with your replies.

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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As this is the last Weekly Brief of 2009 we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to informing, educating and hopefully entertaining you with a further tranche of Weekly Briefs in 2010.