



Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

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Financing for lending scheme launched

In his annual Mansion House speech the Chancellor announced new bank funding to lend to small businesses. Read the FSB's comments on [ITV News](#), [Huffington Post](#) and [Financial Times](#).

Banking Reform white paper launched

The FSB was also quoted on [ITV News](#) welcoming the launch of the Banking Reform white paper which will look at implementing the Independent Commission on Banking recommendation to reforming the banking sector.

Mis-sold an IRSA?

[Bully Banks](#) has another meeting in Parliament on Thursday to discuss the mis-selling of complex interest rate swap agreements to small firms and the problems this has caused. We really need to hear from you if you have been sold one of these products, so if you want your voice to be heard with Ministers [email](#) your experiences.

Peer to peer lending

The [Financial Times](#) published an article this week looking at peer-to-peer lending and how it can benefit small firms citing the FSB's comments that many small firms do not look at peer-to-peer lending as an alternative source of finance.

Equal pay audits

Read the FSB's comments in the [Daily Telegraph](#) on plans to force firms that lose an employment tribunal claim over equal pay to review the wages for all staff. While Government has said that micro-firms will be exempt the FSB is concerned that it will involve more vexatious claims being settled out of court.

Summer Reception

The FSB held its annual Summer Reception in Parliament, hosted by Priti Patel MP. Around 250 people attended, together with a significant number of MPs including the Secretary of State for Business Vince Cable MP and Secretary of State for Defence Philip Hammond MP. View the pictures on the FSB's [Facebook page](#).

The vision for infrastructure

Professor Neil Hoose, Infrastructure Committee Chairman spoke at a Reform event on 'Building Confidence in Infrastructure' this week where he outlined the needs of small businesses. [Read](#) Neil's contribution to the conference booklet and find out more about the event.

Rural Report

The FSB's policy and public affairs team met Dan Rogerson MP, Philip Davies MP and Lord Harrison to discuss the recently released report '[The Missing Links – Revitalising our Rural Economy](#)', and have had a positive reaction to the report from MPs and Peers.

Cabinet Office Questions

Mark Williams MP and Michael Dugher MP both cited our most recent survey data on procurement during [Cabinet Office Questions](#).

Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill

The FSB was mentioned on a number of occasions during a debate on the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill. The Business Secretary [Vince Cable MP](#) and the Shadow Business Secretary, [Chuka Umunna MP](#) both mentioned our view on Compensated No-Fault Dismissal, which was also cited by [Julie Hilling MP](#) and Richard Fuller MP. [Julian Smith MP](#) and [Eilidh Whiteford MP](#) both cited our view that reforms to the conciliation process needed to represent a genuine streamlining of the existing process. [David Evennett MP](#) cited our survey data on the impact of regulation, while [Priti Patel MP](#) also mentioned our concerns over employment regulation. [Mark Durkan MP](#) called for reform to the Insolvency Act, citing our support.

Small business leaseholders

The property industry is looking for businesses that lease premises to take part in a [short survey](#) to better understand their needs. The survey is open until the end of July.

Have your say on the issues of the day

The FSB is always looking for members to join its survey panel to give strength to arguments put forward on behalf of members, and to ensure the interests of small firms are at the top of the political agenda. FSB members can have their voice heard by [signing up](#) to the FSB Survey Panel. [Find out more](#) about the survey.

2012 Games

With the 2012 Games fast approaching, we have put together some [essential advice](#) to help small firms make the most of the Games, including branding guidelines and [guidance](#) on time off for staff.

Independent Retailer Month

The FSB is supporting Independent Retailer Month in July. The campaign highlights the important role small, local, independent retailers play in the communities they serve; the local economy they contribute to; and in the retail sector as a whole. [Find out more](#) about how to get involved.

Facebook application to promote Real-Life Entrepreneurs

The FSB has launched an [application](#) on its Facebook Page where businesses can enter their details, upload photos and videos and share business tips to promote their business. Firms can then share the post and get friends to vote for them to become a featured business and get to the top of the leader board.

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