



# Weekly Brief

from the London Press and Public Affairs Office

## Weekly Brief

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### **John Wright discusses bank bailouts**

FSB National Chairman John Wright discusses how the Government's recent bank bailout will affect small businesses while also gearing up for the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report in the latest [FSB podcast](#).

### **Small business skills**

Business Secretary Lord Mandelson this week unveiled support for 35,000 apprenticeships as part of the Government's new National Skills Strategy. The FSB believes it is important to fix the skills gap but questioned why the plan offered a £1,000 incentive for apprentices to move into higher education after training rather than focusing on keeping them in the workplace. View coverage in the [Financial Times](#).

### **Bank loans**

Banks were back in the news this week as Lloyds unveiled a new SME lending charter and official figures showed total lending to businesses continues to fall. The FSB emphasised the importance of access to affordable credit for small firms in the Mail on Sunday and [the Guardian](#).

### **FSB cares about childcare vouchers**

The FSB has joined growing opposition to the Prime Minister Gordon Brown's proposals to scrap tax relief on childcare vouchers, as reported by the [Financial Times](#).

### **Business recovery**

Business recovery firm R3 is seeking case studies of businesses that have taken action to save their enterprise and jobs such as implementing a pay freeze or offering voluntary redundancy. [Email your experiences](#).

### **Guides for small businesses**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is constantly adding new publications to its webpage of guides for small businesses. They cover a variety of subjects such as flexible working and surviving the downturn. [View the guides](#).

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Have a good weekend!