



FSB Comment

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Poor payment culture continues to plague UK small businesses, says FSB

Following reports of Anheuser-Busch InBev UK and Heinz insisting on excessively long payment terms for small businesses in their supply chains, **Mike Cherry, FSB National Policy Chairman, said:**

"Not a month goes by without another leading company or brand being tarnished by the way they treat their suppliers, many of which are small and micro businesses. No-one should expect to wait four months to get paid, not least smaller companies that simply cannot absorb the impact these terms have on their cashflow. The mounting evidence coming to light shows the scale of the problem, with too many large companies and their respected household brands abusing their suppliers. The attitude of these businesses towards their suppliers has to change. Unless it does, the reputation of business as a whole will continue to be damaged, and continue to restrict growth and job creation.

"The FSB is leading on this issue, and in the coming days will be working with all main parties to make the changes needed to transform the UK's payment culture. The Small Business Bill currently going through Parliament is one opportunity to make the changes urgently needed to bring the UK's payment culture up to the mark. However, ultimately it is down to these big businesses and their shareholders to take the responsibility to effect the cultural change so desperately needed."

Notes to Editors

1) The FSB is the UK's leading business organisation with around 200,000 members. It exists to protect and promote the interests of the UK's Real-Life Entrepreneurs who run their own business. More information is available at www.fsb.org.uk and follow on twitter @fsb_policy

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