



**Britain's
Leading
Business
Organisation**

What does the FSB do for your Small Business?

The Federation of Small Businesses is the UK's largest member led organisation supporting the needs of small businesses. It exists to promote and protect the interests of small businesses throughout the UK.

The FSB was formed in 1974 to lobby against the introduction of Class 4 national insurance and now has over 190,000 members throughout the UK and over 6,000 in the Thames Valley. Today the organisation offers a unique combination of lobbying activity and member benefits.

Its members enjoy an increasing array of business services including a 24 hour helpline and special legal protection, while its lobbying arm applies pressure on MPs, Government and Whitehall, lobbies politicians in their constituencies and puts the FSB viewpoint over to the media.

The FSB is non-profit making and non-party political. As such it is widely recognised as the independent voice of small and medium sized businesses in the UK and was recently voted the most influential lobbying group in a survey of MPs.

Lobbying achievements include:

- A fairer deal from banks
- Exemption from Trade Union recognition for under 21 employees.
- Exemption from employers liability cover for 300,000 family companies
- 104.5% advance of statutory maternity pay for small firms.
- Exemption from compulsory worker consultation.
- 3 weeks notice periods for liability insurance renewals.
- Inland Revenue commitment to review small business taxation.
- Small business rates relief for firms with under £10,000 rateable value.
- The abolition of Crown preference.
- Measures to give small firms a fairer share of public sector contracts.

With a Parliamentary Office in Westminster and regional branches throughout the UK the FSB ensures that the voice of small businesses is heard by decision makers both nationally and locally.

Local Branch

The East Berkshire branch is run by a committee of volunteers who represent members at a local level, organise networking events and seminars as well as support individual members with local issues that affect their business.

If you would like to find out more about either joining the FSB or becoming actively involved at a branch level why not come along to one of our events. Details of all events can be found at www.fsb.org.uk/103 along with further information about the benefits of being a member of the UK largest organisation supporting small businesses.

**Contact Karen Durcan, Regional Organiser,
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Member benefits

As well as being the counties leading lobbying organisation for small firms the FSB also offers its members a comprehensive package of benefits which includes:

- Free 24 hour legal helpline
- Legal protection insurance to cover for defence for criminal prosecution, employment tribunals, Data Protection prosecutions and many more.
- Finance - Taylor made lending schemes.
- Merchant services which offers substantial discounts on credit card processing.
- Telecom solutions offers significant savings on fixed and mobile telephone calls.
- Local networking events.
- Seminars
- Support of full time regional organiser.
- Comprehensive website giving access to a host of information to support small businesses.
- A range of member magazines which provide national and local information to business owners including updates on legislation as well as local events.

The importance of small businesses

- There are 4 million small businesses in the UK
- Over 97% of firms employ less than 20 people.
- Over 500,000 people start up their own business each year.
- Small firms employ over 50% of the private sector work force.
- 12 million people work in small firms.
- Small firms contribute over 50% of UK GDP