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22 September, 2026

Welcome to the SFA ezine.

In this edition we are highlighting our Pre-Budget Submission, an important consultation from Government, important WRC decisions and much more.

*For this edition we have a total of **seven articles and two recommended events**. Please click **Read in web browser** on the top right corner to make sure you see all of them and enjoy your read.*

Director's Note



Yesterday, we published the SFA's pre-budget submission. Much of the media focus centred around our opposition to a mooted increase to the National Minimum Wage (NMW). This prompted a debate on the 'Today with David McCullagh' programme on RTE Radio One between a representative from Social Justice Ireland and I. Furthermore, I reiterated our key points on Newstalk this morning to give the small business perspective on research published by the ERSI about how recent increases to the NMW has had no impact on overall inflation rates. You can read all our proposals to support your business in the Budget Submission article below.

We met with Minister for Enterprise, Tourism & Employment, Peter Burke, TD about our budgetary concerns last Wednesday. The Minister stated that no decision has been made on the NMW, so the SFA aims to keep the pressure up with all our government contacts and stakeholders while also highlighting our preferred changes to Capital Gains Tax rates and the Enhanced Reporting Requirements system.

Looking ahead and being cognisant of our members' desire for more networking opportunities within the SFA, we have two fantastic events taking place in the Autumn. On the 8th of October, we have our B2B Networking event in our offices which will feature Irish broadcaster, entrepreneur, and public speaker **Bobby Kerr**. Then on the 6th of November, the SFA will host its signature social event, the SFA Annual Lunch where this year's guest speaker will be **VITHIT's founder Gary Lavin**, one of Ireland's most dynamic homegrown business leaders. These events are very popular, so please book your spots now to avoid disappointment!

SFA Urges Government to no increase in the Minimum Wage in Pre-Budget Submission 2027



Yesterday, the Small Firms Association has called on Minister Burke to reject proposed National Minimum Wage increases in Budget 2027 to protect small enterprise viability amidst spiralling operational costs. Between 2016 and 2026, Ireland's minimum wage rose by 54.6% (from €9.15 to €14.15), significantly outstripping cumulative inflation (~25%). SFA's 2026 Small Business Survey reveals that 80% of small firms face severe cost pressures, with 51% identifying rising costs as their primary threat.

Read full article

Action Required: Help Shape Ibec & SFA's Policy Agenda for Manufacturing



If you are a manufacturer, your insight is vital to ensuring small businesses and manufacturers are properly represented at the highest levels of Government. If you haven't already taken part, we strongly encourage you to complete the Ibec & SFA Manufacturing in Ireland Survey.

The findings from this survey directly shape our policy recommendations to Government, highlighting key challenges, cost pressures, and growth opportunities across the sector.

MEMBER ONLY: Read full article

WRC Awards Compensation Following Failure to Distribute Electronic Tips



A WRC decision from earlier this year highlights the importance of ensuring that electronic tips are properly tracked, distributed and communicated to employees. While the Complainant's award was modest, the decision has provided useful guidance for employers on their obligations under the Payment of Wages (Amendment) (Tips and Gratuities) Act 2022.

MEMBER ONLY: Read full article

Government Consultation: Have Your Say on Ireland's Strategic Risks 2026



The Department of the Taoiseach has launched its public consultation on the strategic risks facing Ireland in 2026 and beyond. For small business owners, this is a crucial opportunity to ensure the operational and economic realities of the small enterprise sector are reflected in national planning. We strongly encourage SFA members to submit their views to ensure government policy accounts for the unique challenges facing smaller employers. The public consultation will be open until **Friday, 9 October 2026**.

Read full article

WRC Rejects Family Status Discrimination Claim Over Weekend Working Request



A recent WRC decision provides useful guidance for employers when dealing with flexible working requests arising from caring responsibilities. The case highlights the importance of meaningful engagement, ensuring that employees clearly communicate the circumstances for requests, as well as exploring suitable alternative options.

MEMBER ONLY: Read full article



SFA IN THE MEDIA

Small local businesses encouraged to celebrate achievements @Limerick Post

MCalls for Government to reject proposed minimum wage increase @RTE

SFA calls for halt to minimum wage increase @Business Plus

A third of workers are earning less than a living wage @Irish Examiner



Join now and get TWO MONTHS OFF your membership fee

Intercompany FX Transfers: A Simpler Way to Move Money Between Your Irish Business and Overseas Office



According to CSO data, Ireland's total goods exports reached a record €260. Three billion in 2025, up by over 16% on 2024. The value of imported goods also rose to €144 billion, up by over 7% when compared to 2024.

Irish business has never been more international and while much of the cross-border payment flow is to third parties, a significant amount can be attributed to intercompany transfers.

Read full article

Interested in public procurement? Please register with eTenders



The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) is aiming to achieve value for money by aggregating the buying power of the State, making it easier for suppliers to do business with Government and for businesses to win public contracts.

One way the OGP is working to achieve this is through designing new systems that will transform our public service – delivering inclusive, high quality and integrated services for the people of Ireland.

Read full article

UPCOMING EVENTS



SFA B2B & Networking Event

Thursday, 8 October 2026 | 10:30AM to 1PM | SFA, 84/86 Lower Baggot Street, D02 H720

We are pleased to announce that at the SFA's next B2B Networking event on the 8th of October, our special guest is none less than **Broadcaster, Entrepreneur and Former Chairman of Insomnia Coffee Company, Bobby Kerr**. SFA Director, David Broderick will be asking Bobby about his various business exploits and his media career.

Celebrating the launch of the 23rd edition of the SFA Awards and budget being announced a couple of days before, this event will also include an **overview of Budget 2027** and **a panel discussion with previous SFA Award Winners from Lawrence Engineering and Donna Reilly People & Wellness** on their respective business journeys.

Register now to secure your spot and network with fellow business owners.

Register now



SFA Annual Lunch 2026 | Early Bird rates end on September 30th!

Friday, 6 November | 12 to 4PM | The Round Room at the Mansion House, D02 XK40

From a Dublin start-up to a €75 Million exit: **VITHIT's Gary Lavin**, one of Ireland's most dynamic homegrown business leaders, will be our Special Guest Speaker at the SFA Annual Lunch in November.

Come hear from a visionary Dublin entrepreneur who has successfully navigated the highs and lows of the modern business landscape during the traditional fireside chat with SFA Director, David Broderick. Beyond hearing Gary's incredible story, our Annual Lunch provides the perfect backdrop to entertain clients, reward your hardworking team, and connect with fellow SFA members from across the country. **Book your spot before the early bird tickets run out!**

Reserve your spot

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Contact us today via 01 605 1776 or book a meeting with a member of our team via this link to make sure you are availing of everything that is available to you. We are here to help and will be delighted to guide you through our resources.

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

We hope you have enjoyed your read and, as always, we'd love to hear from you about any queries you may have, issues you wish to have raised with Government or other stakeholders and your ideas on how we can improve the business environment for us all.

Please contact me on tel: 01 605 1530 or e-mail: david.broderick@sfa.ie, check our LinkedIn or visit our website.

Kind regards,

David Broderick
SFA Director

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