

Wales Monthly Update

3 February 2025

As we head into February, our focus is on an exciting calendar of events and opportunities to connect in 2025! Stay up-to-date with the latest in our Wales Monthly Update, where we'll reflect on January's highlights and share what's on the horizon in the coming months. Don't miss out - dive in to stay in the loop with everything we've got planned!

Campaigning and Policy Activity

📄 We are continuing to ensure that the wins we gained in the Welsh Government Draft Budget will come be followed through for the new budget year in April. These include key support through business rates relief and a cap on multiplier, on more resources for planning decisions, and ringfenced fund for roads.

📄 [Writing in Business News Wales](#), our Head of Wales, Ben Cottam, made the case that 2025 has to be the year to bring Wales' business ecosystem together and ensuring support is accessible to businesses of all sizes. He set out the importance of supporting SMEs with technology adoption, ensuring large-scale developments such as off-shore wind benefit local economies, improving access to skills and making the most of the Welsh Government's investment summit this autumn.

📄 The survey and interviews for our upcoming report on Business Support in Wales has concluded – a big thank you to all that participated and helped provide us with evidence of your experiences and views. We are currently in the process of analysing the data and writing up.

📄 The traditional snegls and spandauer pastries weren't the only things being chewed over as FSB Wales took the Welsh Secretary, Jo Stevens MP, to visit Brød, the Danish Bakery in Cardiff. Some of the main challenges currently facing small businesses across Wales and beyond were on the menu. During the visit, the importance of adequate access to skills was discussed, as well as the impact of changes to National Insurance Contributions on small businesses.



📄 The team also visited Kontroltek Ltd with their constituency MP, Chris Elmore MP. Again, key issues for small businesses were discussed and it was fantastic to learn about how Kontroltek are supporting other companies to adopt a more sustainable approach by repairing equipment instead of it being replaced.



📄 FSB spokespeople have taken part in several media interviews throughout the month, advocating for small businesses on issues including addressing delays in the planning system and how to ensure government proposals for securing economic growth benefits SMEs.

📄 This month we have provided evidence to Welsh Government on the International Strategy, the capacity and efficiency of planning system, and on the Visitor Levy.

📄 Welsh businesses operating in property, construction, and technology sectors have a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights and forge strategic connections by attending **PropTech 2025**, one of Europe's leading events dedicated to digital innovation in the built environment. The conference brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and technology pioneers to explore the latest trends in property technology, from smart building solutions to data-driven decision-making. For Welsh businesses looking to attend, you can showcase your expertise on a global stage, connect with potential investors and partners, and gain firsthand exposure to cutting-edge technologies that are shaping the future of property development. [Learn more here](#)

North Wales Update: Mike Learmond

January is usually a relatively quiet month as people return from their Christmas break and get back into the swing of things. So it was great to see record numbers book on for our regular virtual networking events during the month. This is your opportunity to connect with fellow business owners right across the UK (and sometimes even beyond), so why not give it a try by following the links below?

We also held our monthly in-person networking event at Northop Business School and we enjoyed a really interesting and thought-provoking presentation on personal and business resilience and leadership from Mark J Kassab of [MJK Fire](#). Check out this [LinkedIn post](#) to learn more. Our next event is in Bangor on February 20.



One of the issues we talked about at the business breakfast was keeping your business safe from cyber criminals and we heard some personal stories from victims. Cyber crime and fraud is becoming an increasing threat for businesses, so I have asked Detective Superintendent Paul Peters, Director of the Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales (WCRC) to speak at our next meeting in Northop on 12th March. Also, as a member of the WCRC Advisory Board, I was asked to supply [a blog](#) as part of introducing the wider team.

Also during the month, we dusted off our stand for the Conwy Employment Hub Business Breakfast and we presented our [“Power of Creativity”](#) report on the creative industries in Wales to the North Wales Business Council. Earlier, we toured the wonderful new facilities at Grwp



Llandrillo Menai Parc Menai campus, met some students and viewed some state-of-the-art technology including a television studio, theatre training and sound mixing equipment. It was brilliant to see all of this coming to fruition, and backing up the importance of the creative industry sector in Wales which we highlighted in our report.

Looking forward to February, we have lots going on, so please do keep checking our social media accounts and regular updates so you don't miss out.

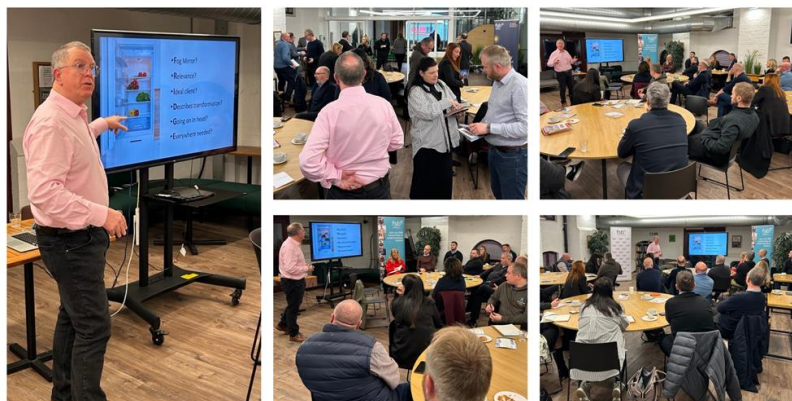
South Wales Update: Rob Basini

This month has seen quite a focus on engaging with members on key issues affecting them at present, and on feeding these key issues into various forums, including a business engagement event with Welsh Government's Minister for the Economy.

We've also been out and about, visiting various businesses with Jo Stevens MP and Chris Elmore MP in their constituencies, to give an opportunity to those Members of Parliament to hear directly from local businesses about challenges being faced at the moment.

We also hosted our first networking event of the year, at Space2B at The Maltings in Cardiff.

It was great to kick off our networking in the new year in such a positive way.



In February we are really looking forward to hosting the next of our 'Being Responsible Businesses' events in early February, which will focus on Inclusion. We will also be hosting our joint networking event in Cardiff with HSBC, an event which has proved extremely popular and has been sold out for some time.

On February 12 it will be a pleasure to host our FSB national event with local South Wales business WebBox, giving a presentation on '25 Must Haves For Your Website in 2025'. This really is a must attend for any business looking to make sure its website is as effective as it can be.

Our West Wales business networking event on February 13 in Narberth looks to be well attended, with guest speaker Keith Small of Your Success, who will be talking about 'Building Your Mental Resilience and Positive Mindset'. We will then have our final event of the month on February 21 in Swansea, hosting our Wales in India event, as the celebratory year for this draws to a close.

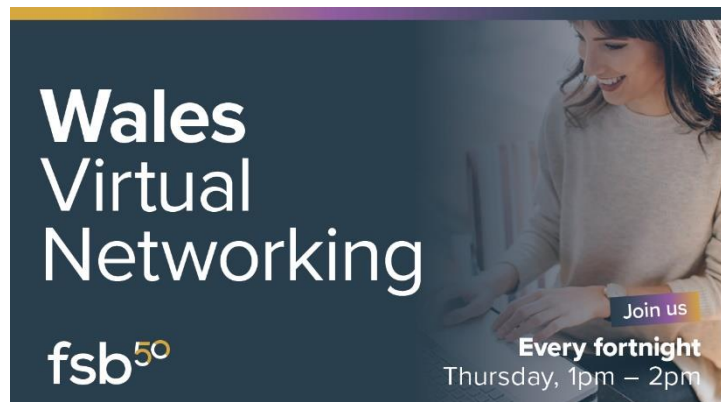
Upcoming Events

[Cardiff Networking by FSB and HSBC, Thursday 6 February, 10am-12pm](#)

Take the opportunity to make new introductions, connect with new contacts and meet old friends at this networking event in partnership with HSBC. This relaxed event, with an emphasis on connecting with other like-minded business owners, will provide a warm welcome for all looking to expand their networks. This FREE event is open to FSB members and non-members, spaces are limited so book your space today!

[Wales Virtual Networking, Thursday 6 February, 1-2pm](#)

Start your month by embracing the virtual networking scene with us at our Wales Virtual Networking sessions, the perfect dynamic and engaging setting to grow and diversify your business connections. Held fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon, this is your first chance in 2025 to expand your network, share valuable insights and collaborate with our diverse virtual community of business professionals from Wales and across the UK. The event is open to all and FREE to attend.



[West Wales Business Networking, Thursday 13 February, 9.00am - 11.45am](#)

Our West Wales Business Networking returns to The Queen's Hall in Narberth this month, giving you the valuable opportunity to connect with other businesses and like-minded people from across the area. Keith Small, from Your Success, will be the guest speaker at this event, discussing 'Building Your Mental Resilience and Positive Mindset', introducing simple routines and positive habits that can be implemented and adapted to get the most from yourself, each and every day. This event is open to both FSB members and non-members, book your place today.

[North Wales Business Breakfast, Thursday 20 February, 9.30am – 11am](#)



Our in-person networking in North Wales returns our popular regular monthly North Wales Business Breakfast events. This monthly networking meet-up, this month taking place in Busnes@LlandrilloMenai, Bangor, offers a prime opportunity to forge meaningful business connections, in a professional environment. At this event we are pleased to welcome Sue Hedley from

Confidence First Coaching, who will be speaking about how to ‘Supercharge Your Business Success with Unshakeable Self-Belief’, providing guidance on how to stay on track and achieve business success. Come along and network, collaborate, promote your services and support each other. Open to all, both FSB members and non-members.

[Wales Virtual Networking, Thursday 20 February, 1-2pm](#)

Join us for the second time this month at our virtual networking event and become part of our wonderful online networking community at our Wales Virtual Networking sessions, the perfect dynamic and engaging setting to grow and diversify your business connections. Held fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon, this is your chance to expand your network, share valuable insights and collaborate with our diverse virtual community of business professionals from Wales and across the UK. The event is open to all and FREE to attend.

[Wales In India – Small Business Event, Friday 21 February, 12pm – 2pm](#)

Join us to celebrate the end of Wales In India year and have the opportunity to network with others interested in developing links between Wales and India. As well as strengthening ties, this partnership has helped to foster new trade & investment opportunities, championed cultural and sporting connections and cemented academic and healthcare collaborations. This event will highlight business opportunities still available to explore and develop, and is suitable for businesses who are looking to develop links between Wales and India. A buffet lunch will be available to attendees, all are welcome, both FSB members and non-members.



[North Wales March For Business Dinner, Wednesday 5 March, 6pm – 10pm](#)

Throughout March there are a series of events taking place across Denbighshire to support and promote the business community in the area. The annual ‘North Wales March For Business Dinner’ is a key event in the month, with around 100 business people attending from all over North Wales. The dinner is supported by FSB, Denbighshire County Council, Ministry of Defence,

Business Wales/Menter Môn and North Wales Police and Community Trust. Come along and join us for a pre-dinner drinks reception and a delicious three course meal, combined with good company and plentiful networking opportunities and business support. Secure your spot now, tickets selling fast!

Meet The Team

If you need any further information about any of the information or events covered here, your Wales contacts are:

[Mike Learmond, Senior Development Manager \(North Wales\)](#)

[Rob Basini, Development Manager \(South & Mid Wales\)](#)

[Shona Holmes-Berry, Operational Support Co-Ordinator \(Wales\)](#)

North Wales social media pages

 **@FSB.North.Wales**

 **@FSBNorthWales**

South Wales social media pages

 **@FSB.South.Mid.Wales**

 **@FSBSouthWales**