DIRECTOR AID

Press Release

Regional figures from the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index · October 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (REGIONAL: SOUTH EAST)

88 Winding-Up Petitions Advertised Against Companies in The South East in the 7 Weeks to 18 October 2026

88 winding-up petitions were advertised against companies the South East in the 7 weeks to 18 October 2026, about 12% of all petitions advertised in England and Wales in that period, according to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index, published by Director Aid.

HMRC presented 56% of the petitions the South East. Across England and Wales, 443 petitions were advertised in September 2026, 59% of them presented by HMRC. Of the petitions advertised since 8 September 2026 whose hearing was at least three weeks ago, 39% have been followed by a winding-up order. The first hearing is typically listed about 12 days after a petition is advertised, which is usually the point at which the company's bank freezes its account.

Nationally, the sectors with the most petitions over the most recent four weeks were construction (115), business support services (66), retail, wholesale and motor trade (64), hospitality (hotels, restaurants, bars) (51).

> *Alastair Redfern, Solicitor and founder of Director Aid, said: "HMRC presented 59% of the petitions advertised in the month, and that is the figure directors should notice: tax arrears are the most common route to a petition by a wide margin. Construction is again the sector with the most petitions, which reflects how late payment up the chain turns into tax arrears at the bottom of it. A petition is advertised before the hearing, and the bank usually freezes the account when it is. The companies that come through are the ones that took advice in the few days in between."*

> *"For a director the South East, the practical point is the same as anywhere else: the petition is advertised before the hearing, the bank usually freezes the account when it is, and the options are widest in the few days in between."*

WHAT DIRECTORS SHOULD DO WHEN A PETITION ARRIVES

- Note the hearing date and work out the earliest date the petition can be advertised: seven business days after service.
- Stop non-essential payments from the company's account: payments after the petition was presented

Director Aid is an independent advisory service for company directors, run by Alastair Redfern, Solicitor.

- Check whether the debt is genuinely disputed, and take advice before the advertisement date, when the most options are open.

A free handbook for directors and a free deadline calculator are at https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petition-handbook.html and https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petition-deadline-calculator.html.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AID WINDING-UP PETITION INDEX

The Index counts winding-up petitions against companies in England and Wales from public insolvency records, by the date of the public notice, and is updated every Monday with the petitioner, region and sector of each petition and what happened next. Aggregate figures only; no company is named. It is published as open data under a Creative Commons Attribution licence and is free to quote with credit to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index and a link to https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petition-statistics.html.

Regional figures, updated weekly: https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petition-south-east.html
Monthly figures: https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petitions-2026-09.html

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Figures and breakdowns are free to use with credit to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index and a link.
- Director Aid offers company directors facing a winding-up petition a free initial consultation: directoraid.co.uk, 07361 999123, help@directoraid.co.uk.
- Alastair Redfern LL.B. is a Solicitor and is available for comment and interview, same day.
- Press page: https://directoraid.co.uk/press.html

Media contact: Alastair Redfern LL.B., Solicitor · **07361 999123** · help@directoraid.co.uk · directoraid.co.uk/press.html
Figures, charts, regional and sector breakdowns and comment available same day. Free to use with credit to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index and a link.