DIRECTOR AID

Press Release

Sector figures from the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (SECTOR: RETAIL, WHOLESALE AND MOTOR TRADE)

65 Winding-Up Petitions Advertised Against Retail, Wholesale and Motor Trade Companies in Four Weeks

65 winding-up petitions were advertised against companies in retail, wholesale and the motor trade in England and Wales in the four weeks to 25 October 2026, about 12% of all petitions advertised in that period, according to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index, published by Director Aid. Only construction had more.

Across all sectors, 633 petitions were advertised in October 2026, up 190 (43%) on September 2026, 62% of them presented by HMRC. Of the petitions advertised since 8 September 2026 whose hearing was at least three weeks ago, 42% 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.

Alastair Redfern LL.B., Solicitor, founder of Director Aid, said: "A rise of 43% in a month is not noise; it is creditors, and above all HMRC, deciding that waiting no longer pays. HMRC presented 62% of them, 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."

> *"In retail, wholesale and the motor trade the pattern is familiar: late payment up the chain becomes an HMRC arrears problem, and HMRC petitions rather than negotiates. The directors who keep their companies are the ones who deal with the petition before it is advertised."*

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 can be void if a winding-up order follows.
- 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.

Sector and monthly figures: https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petitions-2026-10.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

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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.