DIRECTOR AID

Press Release

The Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index · October 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

633 Winding-Up Petitions Advertised Against Companies in England and Wales in October 2026, up 190 (43%) on September 2026

633 winding-up petitions were advertised against companies in England and Wales in October 2026, up 190 (43%) on September 2026, according to the Director Aid Winding-Up Petition Index, published by Director Aid. The Index is published on the first working day of each month, about two weeks before the Insolvency Service's official monthly company insolvency statistics, and is updated weekly in between.

HM Revenue & Customs presented 392 of them (62%), with 223 presented by trade and other creditors and 14 by local authorities. Monthly totals so far: September 2026: 443; October 2026: 633. 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.

The sectors with the most petitions over the most recent four weeks were construction (111), retail, wholesale and motor trade (65), business support services (62), hospitality (hotels, restaurants, bars) (55). By region of the company, the busiest areas over the 8 weeks to 25 October 2026 were London (261), The South East (99), The North West (92), The East of England (73), The West Midlands (68).

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."

> *"HMRC's share tells its own story: a company that has fallen behind on VAT or PAYE is now more likely to meet a petition than a payment plan. The companies that come through are the ones that take advice in the first week, before the petition is advertised and the bank account is frozen."*

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.

- 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.

Full monthly figures, with regional and sector breakdowns: https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petitions-2026-10.html
Open data and method: https://directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petition-statistics.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.