DIRECTOR AID

The Winding-Up Petition Report 2026

Winding-up petitions and liquidations in England and Wales in 2026: the Director Aid Petition Figures

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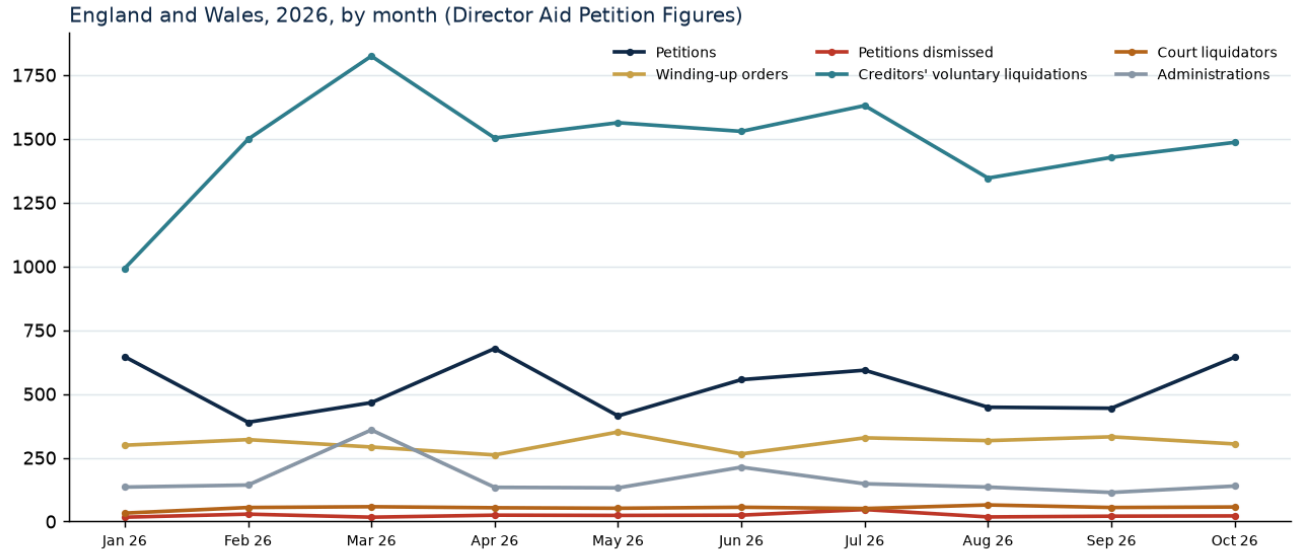
Winding-up petitions and liquidations in England and Wales in 2026

> **This report online:** directoraid.co.uk/winding-up-petitions-and-liquidations-2026.html (updated monthly). Also: the figures hub · the regional map · the press kit · method and licence · the data (CSV). Every link in this document is clickable.

In 2026 so far, 5,549 winding-up petitions were advertised against companies in England and Wales; 3,254 winding-up orders were made; 15,515 companies went into creditors' voluntary liquidation; 1,735 administrators were appointed. This is the Director Aid Petition Figures year report for 2026, from January to 16 November 2026: the monthly figures, the regions and sectors, the petitioners, what happened at the hearings and the firms appointed. A PDF of this report is at The Winding-Up Petition Report 2026.

In brief

- Petitions so far this year are level with the same months of 2025 (5,278 against 5,264).
- The busiest month was April 2026 (678) and the quietest February 2026 (389).
- HMRC presented 60% of the petitions; the rest came from trade creditors, lenders, landlords and local authorities.
- 53% of the petitions heard ended in a winding-up order within a year.
- London had the most (1,900, 34% of the total).
- Construction was the sector most affected (22% of those with a known sector).
- FRP Advisory Trading Limited took more appointments than any other firm (1,589).
- The companies were typically 8 years old; 25% were under five.



Director Aid Petition Figures, directoraid.co.uk. Source: public insolvency records and Director Aid's own monitoring, analysed by Director Aid.

Month by month

Month	Petitions	Winding-up orders	Petitions dismissed	Creditors' voluntary liquidations	Court liquidators	Administrations	Members' voluntary liquidations
January 2026	646	299	17	992	33	135	354
February 2026	389	321	29	1,498	55	143	608
March 2026	466	292	17	1,824	58	359	1,449
April 2026	678	261	25	1,503	54	134	1,061
May 2026	414	351	24	1,563	52	132	252
June 2026	556	265	25	1,529	56	213	302
July 2026	593	328	47	1,630	51	148	393
August 2026	448	317	18	1,346	65	135	385
September 2026	444	332	21	1,427	55	114	491
October 2026	644	304	22	1,486	57	139	904

What happened to the petitions

Of the 3,487 petitions advertised in 2026 that are old enough to have had their hearing, 53% were followed by a winding-up order within a year and 5% by an advertised dismissal; the rest were withdrawn, dismissed without a notice, adjourned beyond the year or are still pending. The share that end in an order is the single most important number for a director: it is high because most companies do nothing effective between service and the hearing.

Who presented the petitions

HMRC presented 60% of the petitions advertised in 2026 so far (3,352 of 5,549). Creditor petitions, from trade creditors, lenders, landlords and local authorities, are the ones most often disputed, paid or withdrawn before the hearing.

Petitioner	Number	Share
HMRC	3,352	60%
Trade creditors	1,319	24%
Lenders and banks	279	5%
Landlords	56	1%
Local authorities	100	2%
The company or its directors	1	0%
Other petitioners	442	8%

By region

Petitions in 2026 so far, by the region of the company's own address.

Region	Number	Share
London	1,900	34%
South East	628	11%
South West	395	7%
East of England	402	7%
East Midlands	254	5%
West Midlands	466	8%
North West	685	12%
North East	132	2%
Yorkshire and the Humber	396	7%
Wales	265	5%

By sector

Petitions in 2026 so far, by the company's stated nature of business.

Sector	Number	Share
Construction	1,196	22%
Manufacturing, Mining and Utilities	328	6%
Retail, Wholesale and Motor Trade	771	14%
Hospitality (Hotels, Restaurants, Bars)	564	10%
Transport and Logistics	220	4%
Media, IT and Telecoms	344	6%
Property	374	7%
Finance and Insurance	120	2%
Professional Services	480	9%
Business Support Services	569	10%
Health, Education and Care	267	5%
Agriculture	20	0%
Leisure and Other Services	261	5%
Other or Not Stated	35	1%

By court

Court	Number	Share
High Court (London)	4,838	89%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Leeds)	230	4%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Manchester)	222	4%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Birmingham)	51	1%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Liverpool)	32	1%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Bristol)	12	0%
High Court (Business and Property Courts in Newcastle)	6	0%
County Court at Coventry	5	0%
County Court at Cardiff	4	0%
County Court at Reading	3	0%
County Court at Nottingham	2	0%
County Court at Birmingham	2	0%

Firms appointed most often

Administrations, creditors voluntary liquidations and court appointments taken in 2026 so far, by firm. Every firm has its own page in the practitioner directory.

Firm	Appointments in 2026
FRP Advisory Trading Limited	1,589
Leonard Curtis	897
Quantuma Advisory Limited	527
Anderson Brookes Insolvency Practitioners Limited	434
Clarke Bell Limited	264
Opus Restructuring LLP	229
Parker Walsh	224
Antony Batty & Company LLP	222
DSi Business Recovery	206
MVL Online Ltd	203
CMB Partners UK Limited	195
FTS Recovery Limited	189
Marshall Peters	186
Parker Andrews Limited	177
Butcher Woods	170

Reading the figures

- The counts are of public notices, by the date of the notice; a company that appears twice (a petition and later an order) is counted once under each.
- Regions and sectors come from the company's own address and stated business. Scotland and Northern Ireland are left out.
- Dismissals undercount, because a petition that is withdrawn or dismissed is often never advertised.
- Full method, definitions and licence: how the figures are compiled. Other years and the monthly series: the figures.

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Director Aid gives directors facing a winding-up petition a free initial consultation with a Solicitor: 07361 999123, text DIRAID to 82228, directoraid.co.uk. Journalists: help@directoraid.co.uk.

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