



Beauty sector joins CuttheVAT

The **National Hairdressers' Federation (NHF)**-led **CuttheVAT** campaign (<http://www.cutthevat.org>) has become super-sized with the decision of beauty salons to get on board.

The inclusion of beauty has doubled the amount of salons backing the campaign for the reduction of VAT charged on salon services to 5% to about 65,000 outlets. Both the **British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (BABTAC)** and the Guild of Beauty Therapists have declared their support.

The **Hairdressing Council**, which maintains the UK register for qualified hairdressers, has also declared support for the campaign, coming hard on the heels of hairdressing and beauty manufacturers represented by the **Hairdressing and Beauty Suppliers Association**. They join founding campaign co-sponsors, the **Fellowship for British Hairdressing, Habia**, which is the government-appointed standards setting body for the hair, beauty, nails and spa sectors and the **Freelance Hair & Beauty Federation**.

Beauty services are not currently included in the sectors that European finance ministers on the **Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin)** have ruled should have the option to apply reduced VAT to.

The NHF will continue to promote reduced VAT for hairdressing salons for which the legal framework is in place while also pushing for the inclusion of beauty therapy in the Ecofin-permitted sectors through the European association of employers' organisations in hairdressing, **Coiffure EU**.

Eileen Lawson, NHF secretary general, said: "Surely whoever is in government after the General Election cannot ignore the strength of feeling and logical argument behind the CuttheVAT campaign. Ministers would do well to listen with the country anticipating going to the polls. VAT for hairdressing salon services is just a direct tax on our sector that comes straight out of clients' pockets."

Angela Bartlett, chairman of BABTAC said: "A reduction of VAT to around 5% would allow many smaller businesses to grow and create many more jobs in this sector. It has been shown to be effective in other countries and should be adopted as soon as possible in the UK."

Sally Styles, Hairdressing Council registrar, said: "The Hairdressing Council is happy to support any campaign that will benefit the industry and state registered hairdressers. If VAT is cut it will be advantageous to everyone in the hairdressing industry."

Paul Archer, director of the Guild of Beauty Therapists, said: "VAT in the beauty industry is a very interesting subject as it only affects the larger salons. Most beauty treatments have a high value-added element to them, and so the impact on VAT is even greater than on other businesses."



For more information visit www.cutthevat.org