

Cavendish Weekly Update – 20 May 2022

Political Update

The Government faces another difficult week as the cost-of-living crisis continues and inflation is at its highest in four decades. The proposition of a windfall tax on gas and oil companies is still causing controversy amongst the Conservative Party as they try and determine how they will navigate the current economic landscape. Last week MPs voted against Labour's bid to introduce a windfall tax, but the Chancellor has continued to reiterate that all options remain on the table.

This week, the continued stand-off regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol continued to dominate as the PM visited Belfast and the Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss announced plans to introduce legislation that could override parts of the Brexit deal over the next few weeks while continuing negotiations with Brussels. Some fear that should the UK act unilaterally, it could spark retaliation from the EU and ultimately a trade war, the last thing many businesses and households want at the time of a cost of living crisis.

Events News

[NEC set to deliver largest EV charging hub](#)

The NEC group and partner, the EV network have just received planning approval to build an electric vehicle charging hub on the NEC campus. Once completed, it would be one of the largest EV charging hubs in all of Europe. It is set to open in the autumn.

[International Trade Secretary gives speech on green trade](#)

International Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan gave a speech, this week, at Bloomberg regarding green trade. In it, she set out the UK's pioneering role in harnessing trade to combat climate change and announced a new Green Trade and Investment Expo in the North East this autumn, hosted alongside the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Expo will bring together UK businesses and global investors to capitalise on the commercial opportunities from our drive to net zero.

[Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport prepare to announce City of Culture 2025](#)

DCMS will soon reveal the City of Culture 2025. Ahead of this, they are going to highlight on their social media the locations on their shortlist. These include: County Durham, Wrexham, Bradford and Southampton.

Parliament

House of Commons

[Public Accounts Committee publishes report reveals Government approach to Covid support "will cost taxpayer billions and billions" in fraud and error](#)

The Public Accounts Committee have published a report finding that billions of pounds of taxpayers' money will be "lost to fraud and error as a result of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's approach" to its COVID-19 business support schemes.

BEIS' latest estimate is that £4.9 billion of taxpayers money will be lost but the true extent of loss will only be gradually revealed "as assessments catch up with payments made". The Committee is concerned that identifying fraud and error so late will hinder both recovery efforts and the deterrent effect in future crises.

House of Lords

[Debate on Touring Hauliers: Arts Organisations](#)

Lord Clement-Jones introduced a debate in the House of Lords "regarding "dual registration" for specialist touring hauliers, what assessment [the Government] have made of the impact this will have on artists and organisations which tour in their own vehicles and operate under "own account"; and whether they have considered support for smaller hauliers operating which do not have the resources to operate dual registration."

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Baroness Vere of Orbiton stated:

"My Lords, specialist touring hauliers operating under "own account" can utilise the dual-registration measure if they have a standard international operator licence, which they must apply for, and a base in Great Britain and another country. Operators will need to make their own decisions on whether they choose to do so based on business need and resources available to them."

In response to a specific concern regarding an orchestra, she further said:

"They can use their own vehicles for touring in Europe if they have a standard operator licence. They still have to remain within the requirements set out in the TCA, which is either two cross-trades or one cross-trade and one cabotage. However, as I have said previously, they can get an ECMT permit to do three cross-trades. We recognise the challenges for those operating on their own account, because they have to operate within those particular requirements. However, if they are of a significant size, they may wish to set up an organisation in the EU, and then they would have slightly greater, although not unlimited, flexibility—but it might be helpful."

[Lords to scrutinise UK Infrastructure Bank Bill in Second Reading](#)

The House of Lords will scrutinise the main purpose and principles of the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill during its second reading. The Bill seeks to place the UK Infrastructure Bank ('the Bank') on a statutory footing. The Bank's purposes are to help tackle climate change and to support regional and local economic growth, through investment in infrastructure.