

# CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 1st**

**November**



## **EIA Update**

This week, we received a response to our congratulatory letter to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathon Reynolds. In his response he particularly acknowledged our post pandemic growth and contribution to the wider economy and we will now use this to engage with the Departments officials.

We were also pleased to respond to the call for evidence Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill also known as Martyn's Law call for evidence, which started the scrutiny process of Parliament this week.

The EIA have been busy this week attending the launch of the UK Events Report for 2024 along with other members. We were pleased to see that the Report continued to demonstrate the value of the sector.

In response to the Autumn Budget this, we issued the below statement:

*"We welcome the Government's ambition to kick start economic growth and we believe that the business events industry can help. Last year, our industry contributed £10.9bn to the UK economy, bringing businesses and visitors from around the world.*

*"However, today's announcement of an increase in tax for small and medium sized businesses will be detrimental to growth prospects. Employment costs for our members are soaring and the increase in employers' national insurance contributions will clearly affect jobs, wages and prices within the industry.*

*We believe that the Government should commit to providing incentives to boost the potential of our sector and encourage entrepreneurship. Combined with reducing trade frictions across the EU, this would supercharge the business events industry and enable us to deliver real economic growth."*

## Political Update

The first Labour Budget in 14 years was delivered on Wednesday this week, it was also the first Budget to be delivered by a female Chancellor. Chancellor Rachel Reeves, announced £40 billion in tax rises across the board in order to fund investment, stimulate economic growth, restore stability and rebuild Britain.

Much of the Budget content had been trailed over the weeks before the Budget as has become the norm prior to the Budget to try and prevent shocks to the market. There were mixed reactions with some sectors welcoming the measures introduced and other criticising the tax measures levelled at businesses, particularly around National Insurance Contributions by employers which will rise from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025. Air Passenger Duty has also increased and will add £2 for those flying economy to short-haul destinations from 2026-27.

A full briefing on the contents of the Budget from Cavendish can be found [here](#). Cavendish also hosted a post Budget breakfast event with analysis provided by Chris Curtis MP, Katy Balls Political Editor at the Spectator, and Patrick English, Director of Political Analytics at YouGov. A video of the event can be found [here](#).

The results of the Conservative leadership contest will be announced this Saturday, 2nd November, with the voting closing on 31st October at 17:00. There have been reports that the Tory membership turnout for the ballot has been low compared to other leadership races. Kemi Badenoch remains the favourite to win but Robert Jenrick said in the week that he was "chasing down every vote".

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## News

### Chancellor delivers Autumn Budget

On 30th October the Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered the Budget to Parliament. The Chancellor promised to rebuild Britain noting that the Government will restore stability, making economic growth their mission for the duration of this Parliament.

Driving the headlines is the announcement of £40 billion in tax rises, which has been described by BBC as a "really very big number". The economic constraints facing the Chancellor meant Reeves emphasised repeatedly the need to make "difficult" decisions, outlining increases to the rate of employer National Insurance, Capital Gains Tax, Air Passenger Duty for private jets, and a new vaping duty, amongst other measures.

Of particular relevance to EIA are the following announcements:

- **Business rate reform:** The Government will reform the business rates system through permanently lower business rates multipliers for retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) properties from 2026-27, funding it through a higher multiplier for the most valuable properties. The Budget also provides £1.9 billion of support to small businesses and the high street in 2025-26 by freezing the small

business multiplier and providing 40% relief on bills for RHL properties, up to a £110,000 cash cap.

- **A business rates discussion paper:** Published alongside the Budget setting out the Government's priority areas for these reforms, and inviting industry to help co-design a fairer business rates system.
- **Northern Powerhouse Rail:** Securing delivery of the Transpennine Route Upgrade and maintaining momentum on Northern Powerhouse Rail by progressing planning and design works to support future delivery.
- **Rail fares:** The Government confirmed that the annual regulated rail fares cap will rise by 4.6% on 2 March 2025, one percentage point above RPI.
- **High-Speed Rail 2 (HS2):** Progressing HS2 Phase One and confirming funding to tunnel from Old Oak Common to Euston to ensure HS2 trains terminate in central London.
- **Apprenticeships:** Transform the Apprenticeship Levy into a Growth and Skills Levy through £40 million investment.

### Treasury request Feedback on the Budget

Following the Budget being presented to Parliament the Treasury has asked to understand businesses views on the Budget.

They have asked for businesses to provide views on the following:

- **Q1.** What is your organisation's overall sentiment (Positive, Neutral, Negative)?
- **Q2.** What are your initial reactions to the Budget? (*this info will only be used internally within government*)
- **Q3.** In light of the budget, do you think upcoming investment decisions in your company will now look different?
- **Q4.** Do you have any questions about the statement?
- **Q5.** Any other comments?

Email your responses to [fpbs@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:fpbs@businessandtrade.gov.uk) by Friday 1 November 2024.

### [Lisa Nandy welcomes the Budget for the Creative Industries](#)

Following the Budget this week, Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy welcomed a number of measures introduced which were aimed at the creative industry and recognising their role in driving economic growth. Nandy said that the measures would support businesses and create jobs across the country.

Key initiatives include a £3 million scheme to raise awareness of creative career paths among schoolchildren and £25 million for the Crown Works film studio in Sunderland, expected to generate around 8,000 new jobs. The Budget also continues grants for start-up video game studios and grassroots music venues.

A new VFX tax credit has been introduced, alongside the extension of existing tax reliefs for film, TV, theatre, orchestras, and museums, ensuring the long-term sustainability of these industries. Increased support for national museums and

galleries, with higher Grant-in-Aid funding, with the aim that this will help maintain their sustainability.

### **EU - UK Competition Cooperation Agreement**

The Government and the EU have concluded technical negotiations on the UK-EU Competition Cooperation Agreement. This agreement aims to enhance cooperation between the UK's Competition and Markets Authority and EU competition authorities, facilitating better enforcement of global competition laws. It will support businesses and protect consumers by enabling closer collaboration on cross-border cases. The agreement, set to supplement the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, is expected to be signed next year, with Parliament reviewing the text beforehand.

### **Free Trade agreement with Switzerland**

The fifth round of negotiations on an enhanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Switzerland took place in London from 14 to 18 October 2024. This was the first round since the UK announced its FTA negotiations programme in July. Progress was made in key areas such as services, investment, and digital. The talks aim to strengthen economic ties, contributing to growth and jobs. The next round is scheduled for early 2025 in Switzerland.

### **Recruitment training offered by the Government**

Government Skills has launched a new recruitment training suite to aid managers in hiring the right candidates. The suite includes online resources, workshops, e-learning, animations, and podcasts, covering best practices in job descriptions, assessments, and candidate evaluation. The older courses will remain available until the new year, with new workshops open for booking from January 2025. The suite aims to enhance recruitment outcomes and candidate experiences.

### **Belfast named Best Event Destination**

Belfast has been named 'Best Event Destination UK' at the Conference & Incentive Travel (C&IT) awards in London. Visit Belfast, celebrating 25 years of success, has won this title six times in the last seven years. Visit Belfast is currently trying to double the number of international conferences held in Northern Ireland and by 2030 they would like to attract three times the number of delegates from the UK and Ireland.

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## **Parliament**

House of Commons

### **Protection of Premises**

Neil Coyle, Labour MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (with reference to clause 2 of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill) for what reason venues with a 100 person capacity will be excluded from full risk assessments.

Dan Jarvis, Minister for Security responded: *"As a result of pre-legislative scrutiny, and extensive consultation in relation to proposals for the standard tier, the Government made significant changes to the Bill. This was to ensure public protection outcomes*

can be achieved whilst avoiding undue burdens on businesses and other organisations. This includes raising the standard tier threshold from 100 to 200.

"Lowering the minimum threshold for the standard tier back to 100 would result in significant changes to the coverage of the Bill and increased costs to business. Government believes a threshold of 200 achieves an appropriate balance between protecting the public from the risk of physical harm and imposing burden on business, whilst continuing to deliver the Bill's overall aims of increasing protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK.

"We will continue to liaise with all relevant stakeholders as the Bill progresses."

### **Apprenticeships**

Anna Dixon, Labour MP for Shipley asked the Secretary of State for Education if she will conduct a review into apprenticeships that includes taking representations from existing functional skills teachers.

Janet Daby, Minister for Children and Families, responded by saying that the Department reviews apprenticeships policy, including English and maths requirements, to ensure apprentices gain necessary skills. She also touched upon the Government's plans to transform the apprenticeships levy into a growth and skills levy, offering more flexibility and aligning with the Industrial Strategy. Skills England will collaborate with employers and partners to identify skills gaps, ensuring levy-funded training is valuable and supports economic growth. Daby went on to confirm that further details on Skills England's engagement plans will be announced soon.

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## **Social Media Monitoring**

**Dan Jarvis Minister for Security** "Thinking about your future and interested in travel and tourism but don't know where to start? Tourism company TUI has launched a free, virtual work experience programme for young people aged 14+ in collaboration with careers platform @springpod"

**Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive of National Association of Local Councils**

"[@NALC\\_chair](#) and [@SLCCnews @ball\\_helen](#) giving oral evidence on behalf of parish and town councils today. [#martynslaw](#) 29 October 2024 - Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill - Formal meeting - Committees - UK Parliament"

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**For any queries regarding this round-up  
please get in touch today.**

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