

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 1st**  
**September**



## **EIA Update**

During the EIA's regular monthly update with officials from the Department for Business and Trade, we provided information to support our request for the Minister to speak at our Parliamentary Reception, and provided a trading update. The EIA also shared that it had responded to the draft legislation on Martyn's Law, and the Business and Trade Committee's inquiry on export-led growth. We also shared that the EIA is preparing responses to HMRC's consultations on '*Bringing goods into the UK temporarily*' and '*The future of customs declarations*'.

## **Political Update**

Parliament returns from summer recess next Monday, after a long break. This week saw the Prime Minister conduct a mini reshuffle after Ben Wallace's formal announcement of his resignation as Secretary of State for Defence. This comes after Wallace's statement earlier this month that it would be his intention to not stand in the next General Election. Mr Wallace's formal resignation led to key changes, with Grant Shapps appointed as Secretary of State for Defence and Claire Coutinho stepping up from Minister for Children in the Department for Education, to Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Whilst this is only a mini reshuffle, media reports suggest a more comprehensive one to follow soon.

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## News

### Government publishes new Border Target Operating Model

The Cabinet Office has published its new operating model for UK border security, introducing a data and technology led process that aims to increase both biosecurity and general security at the border. This model also introduces import controls on EU goods for the first time, whilst simultaneously intending to simplify non-EU importations.

### Government pledges to reinstate EU legislation protecting equal pay

The Government has pledged to retain the rights of women to receive equal pay with men for doing the same job — even if they work in different locations or for outsourcing companies — after recently, the post-Brexit EU Retained Law Bill raised questions over whether current protections would expire in January.

### Foreign Secretary visits Beijing to further British interests

Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly visited China for high-level talks with senior representatives from the Chinese Government. He sought to further UK national interests including cyber, international security and human rights as well as pushing for cooperation when facing global problems such as climate change.

### Trade Update: UK-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA

The fourth round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the UK and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) took place between 17 and 28 July. The round was hosted in London and held in a hybrid fashion. A number of GCC negotiators travelled to London for in-person discussions with others attending virtually.

The GCC is equivalent to the UK's 7th largest export market and total trade is worth £61.3 billion according to latest figures. Government analysis shows that, in the long run, a deal with the GCC is expected to increase trade by at least 16%. The fifth round of negotiations is expected to be hosted by the GCC later this year.

### UK businesses urge Rishi Sunak to reverse rise in visa fee for skilled workers

BusinessLDN, a group of British Businesses have urged Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to reconsider his plans to increase the fees for migrants, including workers

and students, to help fund public sector rises. The group cites fears this will exacerbate labour shortages and recruitment difficulties as UK work visas are already among the most expensive in the world.

### **Labour rethinking plans for workers' rights**

The Financial Times has published an analysis that claims Labour is 'diluting' its pledge to create a single status of worker for all but the genuinely self-employed. Rather than introducing this immediately, Labour have said that they will be consulting on this proposal first should Labour be in Government after the next election. The consultation will focus on how a simpler framework could "properly capture the breadth of employment relationships in the UK and ensure workers can benefit from flexible working where they choose to do so."

Additionally, Labour have clarified that regarding basic rights from day one for all workers probationary periods will still apply with "*fair and transparent rules and processes*."

### **Business and Trade Secretary launches UK-India campaign in Jaipur**

Business and Trade Secretary, Kemi Badenoch has launched the *Alive with Opportunity*, a £1.5 million marketing campaign designed to build on the strong relationship between the UK and India and boost trade and investment. Higher education, agri-tech, and e-sports will feature as prominent sectors in a revamped series of modern, targeted UK trade missions to India over the coming year.

### **Labour Party analysis finds private sector investment has fallen £25bn a year under Conservatives**

According to an analysis by the Labour Party, private sector investment in the UK has fallen by £25 billion per year since the Conservatives came to power in 2010. The analysis states that annual business investment was 10% higher under Labour, equivalent to £25 billion more investment each year in today's prices.

The findings are based on Labour analysis of international investment comparisons compiled by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), a left-leaning think tank, using data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

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## Parliament

Parliament will return on Monday 4th of September.

### House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee review Government's tilt to the Indo-Pacific

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee published its report 'Tilting horizons: the Integrated Review and the Indo-Pacific' in which it welcomes the Government's focus on the Indo-Pacific, as the global geopolitical and economic centre of gravity is moving eastward. At the same time, it warns that this policy shift should not be at the expense of regions like the Middle East to which the UK has long-standing commitments and responsibilities.

The report criticises of the Government's inability to set out clearly the long-term objectives and desired outcomes of the Tilt, either in the form of a written strategy, or before the Committee.

The Committee recognises "*the activities of the Chinese Communist Party as a threat to the UK and its interests*" and that "*the behaviour of the Chinese Communist Party is currently characterised by increased aggression towards the UK.*"

For any queries regarding this round-up  
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