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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 10th
January



EIA Update

Happy new year everyone! We hope you all enjoyed the break and welcome back.

At the start of the new year we wrote to members of the House of Lords who were intending to speak at the Martyn's Law debate, held this Tuesday, and provided them with a briefing on the points of clarification that we are seeking.

This month, we are preparing for our meeting with the Chair of the Culture Media and Sport Committee, Dame Caroline Dinéage. We are also looking forward to our meetings with Committee members Bayo Alba and Jo Platt in the coming months. The EIA are also looking forward to attending the Creative Industries Growth Summit in January hosted by Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, Lisa Nandy.

The EIA recently went out to AEO and AEV members assessing the impact of Brexit to build on the work of a survey that ESSA members have already filled out. If you haven't yet and wish to respond please find a link to the [survey here](#).

Political Update

It's been a difficult start to the year for the Government. Chancellor Rachel Reeves faced criticism for travelling to China this week whilst economic concerns grow around the cost of the Government's borrowing and the subsequent slide of the pound.

Tulip Siddiq, Economic Secretary to the Treasury has come under fire for links to the ousted Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Hasina, her aunt, and has referred herself to the ethics watchdog whilst the Government reportedly consider her replacement.

It has also been revealed that local elections of English County Councils due to take place this year could be delayed following the Government's announced devolution plans in December 2024.

The Government would probably rather be talking about the recently announced reforms adult social care and the NHS which aim to drive down waiting lists for GP and hospital appointments.

Meanwhile, MPs and Peers returned to Parliament from Christmas recess on Monday and the House of Lords debated the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill on Tuesday (more on this can be found below).

News

Consultation on the resale of live events tickets

The Department of Business and Trade and the Department of Culture Media and Sport have launched a consultation into the resale of live events ticketing. This initiative aims to protect fans from ticket touts and ensure fair access to live events. The consultation will explore options to make ticket resales fairer and more transparent.

Initiatives that are being consulted on include:

- Capping the price of resold tickets for concerts, live sport and other events
- Limiting the number of tickets that resellers can list
- Increasing accountability of ticket resale websites and apps,
- Strengthening consumer enforcement.

The deadline for the consultation is 4th April 2025, 23:59 and you can respond via filling out the survey [here.](#)

Consultation on pricing practices in the live events sector

The Department of Business and Trade and the Department of Culture Media and Sport have launched a consultation into pricing practices in the live events sector particularly looking at the impact of dynamic pricing. This initiative aims to address concerns about last-minute price rises and ensure the ticket resale market works better for consumers, covering sports, music, theatre, and comedy events.

This consultation is gathering views on:

- How the ticketing market works in the UK both for consumers and businesses
- Information provided to consumers when buying tickets
- Are new technologies increasing risks for consumers

The deadline for the consultation is 4th April 2025, 23:59 and you can respond via filling out the survey [here](#).

Pound falls in value

The pound has fallen to its lowest level in over a year, while UK borrowing costs have reached a 16-year high. Economists warn this could lead to tax increases or spending cuts as the Government aims to avoid borrowing for day-to-day expenses. Treasury Minister Darren Jones said that there was no need for emergency intervention, but Shadow Chancellor Mel Stride took the opportunity to highlight public and market concerns over higher debt and lower growth.

Northern Ireland Economy Minister warns of impact of digital travel permit

Northern Ireland's Economy Minister, Conor Murphy, has warned that the new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme could devastate tourism. Visitors from 48 more countries must apply for an ETA, costing £10. Murphy urges Westminster to exempt Northern Ireland, as 70% of international tourists arrive via the Republic of Ireland. Businesses fear the added cost and complexity will deter visitors. The Home Office claims ETAs will streamline immigration, but Murphy suggests a time-limited exemption for short visits. Tourism generated £210m for Northern Ireland in 2023, and Murphy stresses the importance of protecting this sector.

Rail Sale

The Government's annual rail sale returns with over 2 million discounted tickets, offering up to 50% off for travel between 17 January and 31 March 2025. This initiative aims to encourage train travel across the UK, with thousands of popular routes included. The sale supports the Government's overhaul of the railways, focusing on passenger benefits and economic growth. Passengers are urged to take advantage of these limited-time offers to save on their journeys.

Youth Mobility seen as key to better UK-EU relations

Germany's ambassador to the UK, Miguel Berger, has indicated that Keir Starmer's effort to reset relations with European allies hinges on a UK-EU youth mobility scheme. Berger emphasised the scheme's importance for stability and cooperation, despite pressure from Eurosceptics. He also highlighted the need for British officials to clarify the scheme's benefits and counter misinformation.

Parliament

House of Lords

Terrorism Protection of Premises Bill

On Tuesday 7th of January the House of Lords held the Second Reading of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill also known as Martyn's Law.

The Bill was introduced to the House of Lords by **Lord Hanson of Flint**, the Lords Home Office Minister, who made several important points during the debate:

- **Victims at the Heart of the Bill:** Emphasised that the Bill aims to prevent future victims of terrorism and honour the memory of those who died in the Manchester Arena attack.
- **Cost Considerations:** Acknowledged the concerns about the financial burden on businesses and organisations, and explained that the Government has tried to minimise costs by raising the threshold for premises in scope.
- **Guidance and Training:** Stressed the importance of providing clear guidance and training to ensure that the requirements of the Bill are understood and implemented effectively.
- **Role of the SIA:** Confirmed that the SIA will be the regulator for the new duties, and assured that the SIA will be given the necessary powers and resources to fulfil this role. He also mentioned that the SIA will be accountable to Home Office Ministers.
- **Threshold and Exclusions:** Defended the decision to set the threshold at 200 individuals, explaining that it was based on consultations and feedback. He also addressed specific exclusions, such as places of worship and schools, and explained the rationale behind these decisions.
- **Implementation Period:** Highlighted the two-year implementation period to allow businesses and organisations time to prepare and comply with the new requirements.

During the Debate there were some consistent themes arising from Peers.

Concerns about Implementation and Costs

- **Lord Frost:** Raised concerns about the burden on small organisations and the potential for mission creep.
- **Lord Udney-Lister:** Highlighted the need for clarity on the integration of security duties into licensing requirements and the potential financial burden on businesses.
- **Baroness Fox of Buckley:** Expressed concerns about the impact on civil society and the potential for overregulation.

Role of the Security Industry Authority (SIA)

- **Baroness May of Maidenhead:** Questioned the capacity of the SIA to take on the new regulatory role.
- **Lord Carlile of Berriew:** Suggested that the SIA might need additional support and guidance.
- **Lord Hogan-Howe:** Emphasised the need for the SIA to have the right expertise and resources.

Threshold for Premises

- **Lord Anderson of Ipswich:** Discussed the appropriateness of the threshold for premises and the potential for changes by the Secretary of State.
- **Lord Frost:** Suggested that the threshold might need to be higher to avoid overburdening small venues.
- **Baroness Newlove:** Supported the current threshold but sought clarification on the Government's reasoning.

Exclusions and Specific Cases

- **Lord Faulkner of Worcester:** Raised concerns about the impact on heritage railways and sought clarification on their exclusion.
- **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick:** Highlighted the need for support for heritage and tourism attractions.
- **Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Discussed the complexity of multi-event venues and the need for sector-specific guidance.

The Bill was read for a second time and was put forward to be committed to a Committee of the Whole House. The date for this is yet to be determined.

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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