

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 11th

October



EIA Update

The EIA have been busy this week preparing for the upcoming roundtable with the Department for Culture Media and Sport on the 29 October. The roundtable will convene prominent British trade show and exhibition organisers alongside nation representatives and industry leaders to discuss opportunities to scale these events in priority growth sectors such as technology, medical and life sciences, retail, advanced manufacturing and engineering.

The Minister of Tourism Sir Chris Bryant will be in attendance, providing an excellent opportunity to engage with the Minister in the early months of this new Government. This follows attending an industry event with Secretary of State Lisa Nandy in the summer.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming board meeting where we will discuss our programme for the upcoming year.

Political Update

Conference season is now over, with Parliament resuming on Monday 7th October. MPs and Peers returned to a busy agenda as the 100-day mark loomed for this new Labour Government. The busy agenda included the introduction of the Employment Bill which was introduced on Thursday. More information on the Bill is set out below.

Morgan McSweeney formerly Starmer's closest political aid has replaced Sue Gray as his new Chief of Staff following significant reports of infighting under Sue Gray. McSweeney will be bringing in a host of changes in an effort to resolve internal conflict and promote efficiency will be hoping to serve as a reset for Starmer's Government after a challenging few weeks.

Next week, the Prime Minister is set to host the first International Investment Summit, on 14th October, showcasing the country as a top destination for inward investment. The event aims to attract global investors and highlight opportunities for economic growth and collaboration.

The Conservative Party are heading into the final straight of their leadership race. This week saw the candidates go from four to two with both Tom Tugendhat and then surprisingly James Cleverly eliminated. The final two are Kemi Badenoch and Robert Jenrick with the contest now to be decided by the party members. Ballot papers will be sent out from 15 October and the new leader announced on 2nd November.

News

Border Checks delayed for entering the EU

The European Union has delayed the introduction of its fingerprint and facial scan check system for non-EU citizens at borders, originally set for 10 November. Germany, France, and the Netherlands reported their systems were not ready. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson confirmed the delay, with no new timetable yet. The Entry Exit System (EES) aims to register biometric data at EU borders, but has faced multiple delays since its initial 2022 launch date.

Trade talks between UK and Switzerland

The UK and Switzerland will restart negotiations on 14 October for an upgraded Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Trade between the two countries was worth £51 billion in 2023. The talks aim to strengthen the trading relationship, drive economic growth, and create jobs. The upgraded FTA will include commitments on services and investment, providing long-term certainty for businesses. This comes as the UK hosts the International Investment Summit, showcasing the UK as a top destination for inward investment.

Potential National Insurance Levy on Employer Pension Contributions

It has been speculated that the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, is considering introducing national insurance on employer pension contributions to raise revenue. It has been estimated that this could generate up to £17bn. Labour's manifesto promised not to raise national insurance for working people, but the Government have since indicated that this commitment does not extend to businesses. Steve Webb, a former pensions minister, supports the idea, noting it would be less politically challenging and would not impact pay packets directly. The Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Resolution Foundation also see potential in this measure. Keir Starmer has not ruled out changes to employers' national insurance payments, focusing on protecting working people's incomes.

Amex GBT newest report into Business Travel

Amex GBT has published the 14th Annual Global Meetings and Events Forecast which found that key trends due to shape the meeting and events industry will be technology, sustainability, and engagement. The research revealed that 66% of meeting professionals expect budget growth, with 74% optimistic about the industry's health

and that top elements that contribute to a memorable experience are content (38%), venue (27%) and destination (25%).

Parliament

House of Commons

Employment Rights Bill Announced

The Government has introduced the Employment Rights Bill to enhance economic security and growth for businesses, workers, and communities. The Bill aims to end exploitative zero-hour contracts and fire-and-rehire practices, while establishing day-one rights for bereavement and parental leave. It also proposes removing the two-year qualifying period for unfair dismissal protections and introducing a statutory probation period for new hires. The Bill includes 28 employment reforms, such as strengthening statutory sick pay and making flexible working the default.

Additionally, the Government will:

- Make flexible working the default unless unreasonable.
- Establish a new right to bereavement leave.
- Strengthen protections for pregnant women and new mothers.
- Tackle low pay by considering the cost of living when setting the Minimum Wage.
- Create a Fair Work Agency to enforce rights and support employers.

Beyond the Bill, the Government plans future reforms, including an advisory Right to Switch Off, ending pay discrimination, and reviewing parental and carers leave systems. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds emphasised the Bill's role in boosting productivity and improving working conditions.

Debate on Relations with Europe

The House of Lords debated relations with Europe on 10th October following a move by Baroness Smith of Newnham, Liberal Democrat. The debate focused on culture, diplomacy and security. Baroness Smith of Newnham called for streamlined visa processes to enhance UK-EU cooperation. Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Cross Bench, highlighted challenges for students and researchers, advocating for eased restrictions. Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury criticised visa red tape affecting the creative sector and urged for supportive measures, including a return to Creative Europe.

Defence Minister Lord Coaker, acknowledged the issues faced by touring artists and committed to working collaboratively across departments to address these challenges. He recognised the concerns raised by several Peers, including Lord Berkeley, Lord Ricketts, Baroness Bonham-Carter, and Baroness Helic on the issue. Lord Coaker stated that while there are no plans to rejoin Creative Europe, the Government is working with the creative and cultural sectors to ensure they continue to thrive. He also clarified that UK domestic rules allow musicians, entertainers, artists, and their technical staff from non-visa national countries, such as EU and EEA nationals, to perform in the UK without requiring a visa.

Debate on Skills England

Antonia Bance, Labour MP for Tipton and Wednesbury, led a debate on Skills England, emphasising the need for it to identify and respond to skills needs using the best data and intelligence. She highlighted the importance of including workers' voices in the skills conversation and coordinating Skills England with the Migration Advisory Committee and the industrial strategy. Bance stressed the need for specialist facilities to address the shortage occupation list and advocated for a partnership model between regional and national authorities. She also suggested moving the responsibility for commissioning local skills improvement plans to combined authorities and leveraging more funding for training.

Responding, Minister for Children and Families Janet Daby argued that the lack of a clear plan has caused confusion and skills shortages, hindering economic growth. She stated that Skills England will address national, regional, and local skills needs, aligned with the upcoming industrial strategy. Daby announced a new growth and skills levy to replace the apprenticeship levy and confirmed collaboration with combined authorities. She also noted a £165 million local skills improvement fund to support providers in meeting identified skills needs.

Culture Secretary delivers speech on British filmmaking

Lisa Nandy, Culture Secretary lay new legislation in Parliament for introducing new tax relief to British filmmaking. Elsewhere in the speech she committed to working alongside Skills England to fill 25,000 job vacancies in the creative industries.

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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