

# CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 12th**

**January**



## **EIA Update**

This week the EIA attended the Labour Party Conference launch event at their new headquarters in London. A number of MPs were in attendance and we heard from Anneliese Dodds MP, Chair of the Labour Party and met with the Head of Events for the Party and Sir Keir Starmer's Deputy Chief of Staff.

Starmer's Deputy Chief of Staff was interested to hear what we had to say about our manifesto and was keen to discuss our policy asks further, recognising the importance of our sector to the UK economy. We will be following up with a meeting request in the coming weeks.

## **Political Update**

In the first week since Parliament returned from the Christmas break, Westminster has been consumed by the Horizon-Post Office scandal. The recent ITV documentary brought the issue from the corner of the Ministry of Justice's workflow to the very top of Downing Street's agenda, prompting the Prime Minister to promise urgent primary legislation. Questions are being asked of everyone who had oversight of the Post Office over recent years, with particular scrutiny being placed on the Liberal Democrat Leader Sir Ed Davey, given his former ministerial role.

The Government will spend much of the coming week focused on the parliamentary stages of the Rwanda. The renewed Rwanda conversation will bring asylum and immigration back into political focus for the two main parties.

Leader of the Opposition, Keir Starmer has been touring the country to launch his "missions tour", this week focussing on improving the health of children around the country. This follows Starmer's speech at the start of the year in which he set out his vision for what he labelled "Project Hope". He stated that Labour's goals are "unapologetically ambitious" and would require "hard work and determination" to overcome what the Labour Party perceives as the damage the Conservative Government has caused over the last 14 years.

---

## News

### Spring Budget announced

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, has confirmed the Spring Budget for 2024 will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> March. This is earlier than billed and prompted speculation about whether this would enable the Government to announce popular tax changes.

Interest groups, individuals, and representative bodies can submit a written representation to HM Treasury to comment on current policy or suggest new policies to include in the Spring Budget 2024.

HM Treasury welcomes representations from stakeholders as part of the policy-making process. Any representations from organisations should focus on:

- likely effectiveness and value for money
- revenue implications for the Exchequer
- how it supports growth
- wider macroeconomic implications (for example, for economic stability, and supporting employment)
- sectoral impacts
- distributional impacts
- locational impacts
- administrative and compliance costs and issues
- legislative and operational requirements
- environmental impact

The representations portal will close at **5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

### CPTPP General Review public engagement period launched

The Department for Business and Trade has launched a period of public engagement to seek views on how CPTPP can remain a 'gold standard' trade agreement. The Government are now seeking views from businesses, individuals, and other interested stakeholders on how the deal could be

enhanced through this General Review process. As the first new member, the UK will be able to help shape the future of the agreement and play a key role in setting the rules of the global economy.

DBT will be accepting submissions until 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

### **Business and Trade Secretary visits Turkey to boost trade ties**

Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch visited Turkey to strengthen business links ahead of the expected launch of trade deal talks later this year. This trip kicks off a big year of trade focused on progressing a wave of services-focused deals with countries like Turkey, Switzerland and South Korea, and the Gulf region in 2024.

This visit follows news Airbus will supply 220 planes to Turkish Airlines – one of the UK's biggest ever export deals, worth billions of pounds and supporting thousands of jobs.

### **UK invests in high-tech nuclear fuel to push Putin out of global energy market**

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has announced the UK will become the first country in Europe to launch a high-tech HALEU nuclear fuel programme, strengthening supply for new nuclear projects and driving Putin further out of global energy markets. The landmark £300 million investment is part of plans to help deliver up to 24GW of clean, reliable nuclear power by 2050 - a quarter of the UK's electricity needs.

An additional £10 million will also be provided to develop the skills and sites to produce other advanced nuclear fuels in the UK, helping to secure long term domestic nuclear fuel supply and support international allies.

---

## **Parliament**

House of Commons

### **Business and Trade Committee launch call for evidence on Industrial Policy**

The Business and Trade Committee has launched a call for evidence seeking to scrutinise the UK Government's approach to industrial policy, which will examine how industrial policy can be used to build on the UK's strengths and competitive advantages, enhance economic security and help the UK reach Net Zero by 2050.

The call for evidence will be accepting submissions until Monday 29th January 2024.

### Business and Trade Committee quizzed Gove on delivery of freeports scheme

The Business and Trade Committee questioned Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove will appear in an evidence session on the Government's freeports and investment zones policy. The session is part of the Committee's inquiry into freeports and investment zones in England. MPs quizzed Mr Gove how this latest policy will drive regional growth, how it differs from previous efforts, and how likely the Government's package of incentives are to create additional jobs in the selected regions over moving them around the UK.

### Culture, Media and Sport Questions on UK Musicians and European Tours

SNP MP for Glasgow North, Patrick Grady asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport: "What steps she is taking to support UK musicians seeking to tour in Europe."

Minister for Media, Tourism and Creative Industries, Julia Lopez replied:

*"We have engaged with EU member states to clarify guidance and, where possible, improve arrangements when for EU touring. The vast majority of EU member states—23 of the 27—offer visa and permit-free routes to touring. We are always looking at what more we can do, including through the music export growth scheme, which is being tripled to £3.2 million over the next two years.*

[...]

*"Unlike the SNP, we actually listen to what people say in referenda, so I am afraid we will not be rejoining the EU and therefore we cannot have special tax privileges on that basis. DCMS is aware of the concerns of touring orchestras. We are facilitating discussions with His Majesty's Revenue and Customs so the orchestras know precisely where they stand on some of the issues they have raised."*

### Science, Innovation and Technology questions on Artificial Intelligence and Skills Training

Labour MP for South Shields, Emma Lewell-Buck asked the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology: "What steps she is taking to increase access to AI skills training."

Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, Michelle Donelan responded:

*"The Government have funded a broad package of AI skills initiatives through the education pipeline, to address the skills gap and to support citizens and businesses to take advantage of the wealth of opportunities that AI technologies*

*provide. We have funded a new AI master's conversion course and published draft guidance to help training providers develop business-relevant AI skills training."*

---

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

**Get in touch**



**[cavendishconsulting.com](https://cavendishconsulting.com)**