

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 12th
September



EIA Update

The EIA continues to advance our campaign for a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the European Union. Following the recent government reshuffle, we will be reaching out to the relevant ministers to brief them on both this campaign and the wider events industry.

We are also finalising preparations for our panel event at the Labour Party Conference, which will focus on the events industry.

Political Update

This week began much like the last ended, with the Government reshuffle continuing now onto the junior ministerial roles.

Sir Chris Bryant has moved from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). He is succeeded at DCMS by Ian Murray, now Minister for Tourism and Creative Industries. Gareth Thomas has departed his role at DBT and has exited Government altogether. Portfolios for the new DBT ministers are yet to be confirmed. A full briefing can be found [here](#).

Following last week's stamp duty scandal involving Angela Rayner, the Prime Minister may have hoped for a quieter few days. This was not to be. Lord Mandelson was dismissed as UK Ambassador to the US after emails emerged revealing a closer relationship with Jeffrey Epstein than previously acknowledged. Amid cross-party outrage and scrutiny over vetting failures, James Roscoe has temporarily assumed the ambassadorial post.

Elsewhere, the race to become the Labour Party Deputy Leader has narrowed to Bridget Phillipson and Lucy Powell, after Bell Ribeiro-Addy failed to secure the required 80 MP nominations. Phillipson leads with 175 nominations, followed by Powell with 117. The next stage requires support from local parties or affiliated groups before a members' ballot. The contest, triggered by Rayner's resignation, may expose internal party divisions, with Powell appealing to disaffected MPs and Phillipson backed by Government loyalists.

News

Murray delivers first speech in his new role at the World Design Congress

Speaking at the World Design Congress in London, Minister Ian Murray outlined the Government's ambitions for the design sector. He started his speech off by praising Britain's global leadership in hosting major events from sporting spectacles to 'big business events', and celebrated the country's creative legacy. During his speech Murray highlighted the £380 million in funding made available through the Creative Industries Sector Plan and a review of design protection. Emphasising design's role in tackling climate change, he called for collaboration between designers, businesses, and policymakers to drive sustainable innovation and ensure the UK remains a global creative powerhouse.

Findings from the first State of Play inquiry

MPs on the Culture, Media and Sport Committee have urged the Government to recognise live comedy as a distinct art form to improve access to public funding. Their letter to the Minister follows an April evidence session and highlights the role of major events, like the Edinburgh Fringe, in supporting performers and local economies. The Committee warns rising costs are limiting participation and diversity. These concerns will feed into its newly launched major events inquiry. The next State of Play inquiry is about Play which will be looking into the value of play and informal outdoor physical activity for children and young people.

Campaign to prepare British travellers for the new EES

The Government has launched a campaign to prepare British travellers for the EU's new Entry/Exit System (EES), coming into effect on 12 October 2025. The automated system will require passport scans, fingerprints, and photographs at Schengen borders. Messaging will appear across Government channels, travel websites, and at key departure points like Dover, Folkestone, and St Pancras. While EES aims to streamline border control, travellers are advised to allow extra time. The Government has invested £10.5 million in infrastructure to support implementation and try to minimise disruption.

Business Travel Survey

The Department for Transport's 2025 Business Travel Survey, conducted by Ipsos, reveals that domestic business travel in the UK has rebounded since the pandemic, with 34% of employees making trips in 2024, though still below pre-pandemic levels.

Cars remain the most common mode, but air and rail usage are rising. The most common purposes were client meetings (67%), general business (57%), and attending conferences (56%), while 44% travelled for exhibitions or trade shows.

International business travel is steady, with 23% of employees travelling abroad, mainly to Europe. Decarbonisation is a growing priority, with 65% of businesses having plans, especially larger firms, focusing on video conferencing, home working, and flexible schedule

UK economy

The UK economy saw zero growth in July, following a sharp 1.3% fall in manufacturing output, according to the Office for National Statistics. While the service sector grew, this was offset by declines in production. The economy expanded by just 0.2% over the three months to July. With the Budget looming, pressure mounts on the government to boost growth.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question on the Events Industry

Shaun Davies, Labour MP for Telford, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

"Pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2025 to Question 45986 on Events Industry, what plans her Department has to change the (a) number and (b) grade of civil servants working on supporting the business events sector."

Stephanie Peacock, Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth responded:

"The Government recognises the significant contribution that business events make to the UK economy, supporting jobs, driving regional growth, and showcasing the UK's strengths on the global stage. Officials in DCMS continue to engage regularly with industry stakeholders to ensure that government policy reflects the needs of the sector."

"The Department keeps its resourcing under review to ensure it can deliver against its priorities effectively, but there are no current plans to change the number or grade of civil servants specifically allocated to supporting the business events sector."

Written Question on Hospitality Industry

Adam Jogee, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"Is she will take steps to support the hospitality sector in Staffordshire."

Lucy Rigby, Economic Secretary to the Treasury responded:

She reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting the hospitality sector and local businesses across the UK. From 2026-27, business rates multipliers for retail, hospitality, and leisure properties with rateable values below £500,000 will be permanently lowered. To bridge the gap, RHL relief is extended for 2025-26 at 40% up to £110,000 per business, and the small business multiplier is frozen. She set out that the Employment Allowance has risen to £10,500, protecting small businesses from higher employer NICs.

A key initiative is the Licensing Policy Taskforce, established to review and recommend improvements to licensing conditions for pubs, restaurants, and music venues. The Taskforce's recommendations, published in July, have been largely accepted by the Government, which is now working with the sector to implement these changes. These measures aim to drive economic growth, revitalise high streets, and support vibrant communities.

House of Lords

Debate on UK and EU Trade: Arts and Creative Industries

During the debate the Earl of Clancarty, crossbench, criticised the lack of progress on easing travel for touring artists post-Brexit, highlighting unresolved issues such as visas, cabotage, and carnets. Baroness Twycross, Lords Minister for the Department of Culture Media and Sport, responded that improving conditions for touring musicians and creative professionals is a government priority, with ongoing engagement with the EU and individual member states. She went on to say that the Prime Minister mentioned it as a top priority to the Liaison Committee and that Ministers are actively working on solutions. Baroness Wheatcroft, crossbench, questioned the impact of new travel document requirements. The Government acknowledged these challenges and committed to further action to support touring artists and youth mobility.

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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