

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 13th

December



EIA Update

The EIA met with Cavendish this week to develop our strategy for the upcoming year to focus our engagement to align with our priorities.

The EIA also prepared for the upcoming meeting with Jo Platt MP member of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee where we will raise the profile of our industry and highlight the importance of business events the wider creative industries. This is ahead of our meetings with Committee member Bayo Alaba MP and Committee Chair Dame Caroline Dineage MP in the new year.

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

This week, Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced a crackdown on Government "waste" to prioritise funding for key public services. Departments must identify 5% "efficiency savings" as part of a spending review concluding next June, setting the stage for Labour's budget plans ahead of the next General Election.

Off the back of the Chancellors announced spending review the Treasury have launched the Spending Review representation portal for organisations to feedback on Government spending priorities and to suggest policy ideas that could inform decisions about Departmental budget. The survey can be accessed [here](#) and closes on 9 February 2025.

Briain's farmers have urged the Prime Minister to consult on inheritance tax changes announced in October's Budget. Farmers held a tractor rally protest in Westminster this week over concerns of the new tax, which affects assets over £1m from April 2026, could force farmers to sell land. The National Farmers' Union seeks a policy that considers personal, not business wealth.

Elsewhere this week the Government progressed with their plans for reforming the planning system by announcing changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Today the Government published its Clean Power 2030 Action Plan which aims for clean sources to produce at least as much power as Great Britain consumes by 2030, with 95% of generation from clean sources. The plan outlines a range of possible installed capacities for each technology, with no singular pathway to clean power. Key actions include improving electricity networks, planning, renewable and nuclear project delivery, market reforms, flexibility measures, and enhancing supply chains and workforce.

News

Security Minister on Martyn's Law

Security Minister Dan Jarvis wrote for the Manchester Evening News welcoming the progression of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, known as Martyn's Law, through the House of Commons. Named after Martyn Hett, a victim of the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, the Bill mandates venues to implement terrorism prevention plans. Larger venues must consider risk monitoring and security measures, while smaller venues must notify authorities of their public protection procedures. Jarvis praised the tireless efforts of Martyn's mother, Figen Murray, and emphasised the Bill's importance in improving security and preparedness across the United Kingdom.

Majority of Brexit voters would accept free movement

A recent study by the European Council on Foreign Relations reveals that a majority of Brexit voters would now accept free movement in exchange for single market access. The report highlights a growing consensus for closer EU-UK relations, driven by global events like Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Trump's election. Public opinion on both sides favours stronger ties, with significant support for reciprocal youth mobility schemes and economic concessions to enhance security and cooperation. The Government is urged to align with this public sentiment for an ambitious reset.

The Chancellor addresses Eurozone Finance Ministers on the EU/UK reset

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has called for a business-like relationship with the EU to drive trade, support businesses, and boost economic growth. Addressing EU finance ministers in Brussels, she emphasised the UK Government's commitment to resetting relations with the EU. Reeves highlighted three key areas: tackling shared challenges like the Ukraine war, championing free trade, and strengthening economic partnerships. She stressed that a closer UK-EU relationship is mutually beneficial,

aiming to lower prices and create better jobs. Reeves also underscored the importance of supporting Ukraine and announced plans for a new Trade Strategy in 2025 to enhance economic security and cooperation.

Voluntary Levies on arena and stadium tickets

The Government has responded to the Culture Media and Sports Committee's call for clarity over how long the industry had to impose voluntary levies on arena and stadium concert tickets before ministers stepped in.

The Government has urged the music industry to make significant progress by March on a voluntary levy for arena and stadium concert tickets to support grassroots music. Creative Industries Minister Sir Chris Bryant emphasised the need for tangible progress by early next year, aiming for the levy to be implemented by 2025. A ministerial roundtable with live music representatives will be held before Christmas. The CMS Committee will hold a hearing next year if no substantial progress is made. Chair Dame Caroline Dinenage MP welcomed the Government's push for urgent action.

Skills Minister Speech

In her speech at the Hoxley network conference, Skills Minister Jacqui Smith emphasised the Government's commitment to breaking down barriers to opportunity. Smith acknowledged challenges faced by adult learners and stressed the need for a more inclusive approach that supports those furthest from learning, such as adults with caring responsibilities or special educational needs. Smith praised the work of organisations in supporting adult learners and outlined the Government's vision for a coherent and inclusive skills system.

She called for a cultural shift towards lifelong learning and pointed to the announced initiatives like the Get Britain Working white paper and the establishment of Skills England.

Innovate UK Business Growth

The Department of Business and Trade has published new information on Innovate UK Business Growth which offers expert advice for businesses aiming to commercialise new ideas and succeed internationally. This publicly-funded service supports high-potential SMEs, including Innovate UK grant winners, across various sectors. Businesses receive bespoke support to exploit innovation, intellectual property, and connections, enter new markets, and access funding. The service, part of the UK innovation agency, has empowered clients since 2015 through actionable advice and vital resources. The journey begins with a national enquiry gateway, connecting businesses to local specialists who develop tailored strategies for growth and scaling.

Business Growth Service

Business Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, announced the new Business Growth Service which will streamline Government support for SMEs, making it easier and quicker to access advice and resources. He announced this new initiative to mark Small Business Saturday, the service aims to save small firms time and money by consolidating support under one roof. Launching in early 2025, it will work with local and devolved Governments to provide essential information and resources, helping small businesses grow and thrive across the UK.

Parliament

House of Commons

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill third reading

The debate on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill took place on 9 December 2024. This was a crucial stage in the legislative process, as the Bill was being considered for its Third Reading in the House of Commons. The Third Reading is the final opportunity for MPs to debate the contents of the Bill before it moves to the House of Lords for further scrutiny. During this stage, MPs discussed the overall principles and details of the Bill, proposed amendments, and sought clarifications on various aspects of its implementation.

Key Points and Contributions:

New Clause 1 - Review of the Regulator's Role:

- Matt Vickers (Stockton West, Con) proposed a review of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) within 18 months of the Act's passing to assess its effectiveness and compare it with local authority teams.
- Paul Holmes (Hamble Valley, Con) supported the review, emphasising the burden on small businesses and charities.
- Dr Luke Evans (Hinckley and Bosworth, Con) and Jerome Mayhew (Broadland and Fakenham, Con) raised concerns about the proportionality and potential burden on small venues and volunteers

New Clause 2 - Training on Public Protection Procedures:

- Ben Maguire (North Cornwall, LD) proposed mandatory training for staff at venues to ensure they are prepared for terrorist threats.
- Sir Ashley Fox (Bridgwater, Con) and Dr Luke Evans questioned the feasibility and funding of such training for small venues and volunteers.

Amendments 25 and 26 - Thresholds for Standard and Enhanced Duty Premises:

- Matt Vickers proposed amendments to set minimum thresholds for standard duty at 200 individuals and enhanced duty at 799 individuals to provide certainty and avoid undue burden on smaller venues.

- Mike Wood (Kingswinford and South Staffordshire, Con) and Jerome Mayhew supported these amendments, emphasising the need to protect small community venues from excessive regulatory burdens.

General Support and Concerns:

- Jim Shannon (Strangford, DUP) highlighted the unique challenges faced by churches and small community groups, asking for clarity on support and training.
- Sammy Wilson (East Antrim, DUP) expressed concerns about the practicalities and potential burdens of the Bill, particularly for small organisations and volunteers.
- Chris Murray (Edinburgh East and Musselburgh, Lab) and Mike Tapp (Dover and Deal, Lab) supported the Bill, emphasising the importance of preparedness and proportionality.

Dan Jarvis, Security Minister:

- Responded to concerns, emphasising the proportionality of the Bill and the extensive consultation undertaken.
- Assured that the SIA is the right body to enforce the new regulations and highlighted the implementation period of at least 24 months to allow venues to prepare.
- Addressed specific concerns about the burden on small venues and the need for clear guidance and support.

Requests for Clarity on Implementation:

- Jim Shannon asked for clarity on the support and training available for churches and small community groups.
- Dr Luke Evans inquired about the funding and feasibility of training for small venues and volunteers.
- Paul Holmes sought reassurance about the impact on small theatres and the consultation process with smaller venues.

Following the debate and the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons, the next steps involve the Bill being considered by the House of Lords. The Lords will review the Bill, and it may undergo further scrutiny and potential amendments. If the Lords make any amendments, the Bill will return to the Commons for consideration of those changes. The House of Lords 2nd Reading and debate is due to take place on the 7th January 2025.

Creative industries contribution to the economy

Tristan Osborne, Chatham and Aylesford, Labour MP, asked what recent estimate he has made of the contribution of creative industries to the economy?

Gareth Thomas, Minister for Services, Small Business and Exports responded
"The creative industries are a huge force for good in our country. They were responsible for 2.4 million jobs last year, and more than £124 billion for our GDP in 2022. They are one of eight growth sectors in our industrial strategy. We are working closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and across Government, to identify what more we can do to draw out even more of the potential growth that Britain's creative businesses can offer."

Written question on meeting visitor targets

Saqib Bhatti, Conservative MP for Meriden and Solihull East asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to her Department's press release entitled New ambition for 50 million annual visits to UK announced by Tourism Minister, published on 27 November 2024, what steps she plans to take to meet this target.

Chris Bryant, Minister for Arts and Tourism responded
"The new Visitor Economy Advisory Council will work closely with industry and government to develop a national strategy for growth in the sector to achieve this target. We believe it is important to set this ambitious target, because although the UK attracted 41 million visitors in 2019, it only managed 38 million last year under the previous government. We are clear that growth in the tourism industry beyond London will be at the heart of this strategy, and that will require VisitBritain/VisitEngland to champion visits to the British countryside and rural areas to a worldwide audience and expanding the number of Local Visitor Economy Partnerships —including in rural and coastal areas. This is part of our commitment to spreading tourism's benefits and creating an inclusive, regional growth model."

House of Lords

Written question on Tourism

Lord Bailey of Paddington asked His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of reintroducing VAT-free shopping for overseas visitors?

Lord Livermore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury responded
"The Government has no plans to introduce a new tax-free shopping scheme in Great Britain. Visitors to Great Britain can continue to claim VAT relief where the items purchased are shipped directly to their home country as exports. In March 2024, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) conducted a review of the previous Government's 2020 costing of removing tax-free shopping. The OBR's updated estimate is that the withdrawal of the VAT Retail Export Scheme will save the Exchequer around £540 million per year by 2025-26. Reintroducing tax-free shopping would therefore likely come at significant cost to the Exchequer."

"The Government has also noted recent ONS data, which shows that tourism numbers and spending for the UK has recovered at a similar rate following the pandemic to other European economies that offer tax-free shopping."

For any queries regarding this round-up
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