

CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

Weekly Monitoring
Friday 13th June



EIA Update

This week the EIA followed up on our recent meeting with the Chair of the APPG for Events Shaun Davies. As part of this we have requested that he put us in contact with the Minister Gareth Thomas, Minister for Services, Small Business and Exports to discuss our industry with the Department of Business and Trade further.

We continue to work towards the launch of our MRA campaign to raise recognition of the challenges our industry has faced since Brexit and the impact this has had on our competitiveness for Events with Europe.

Political Update

The big news this week was the Spending Review and subsequent response from media and industries. On Wednesday, Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered the first Spending Review since 2021, and the first under the current Government, following her October 2024 Budget and the Spring Statement in 2025. In the review, Reeves pledged that total departmental budgets would grow by 2.3% over the Spending Review (SR) period to the end of this Parliament, while also committing departments to deliver administrative efficiencies.

The Chancellor framed the funding as a “payment plan for better outcomes”, aimed at ensuring timely access to healthcare, job security, and stable housing. ‘Renewal’ was the chosen buzzword from Number 11. The clear winners, housing, health, defence, and energy, reflect policy areas that Number 10 and the Treasury believe will resonate with an electorate that, judging by the polls, is losing confidence in the Government it elected by a landslide just last year. More detail is provided below.

Outside the Spending Review, the Data (Use and Access) Bill finally passed through the House of Lords after a month of legislative ‘ping pong’. The Peers’ amendment would have required tech companies to disclose their use of copyrighted material in AI training, arguing that without it, UK content could be exploited without compensation, threatening creative jobs. Despite backing from figures such as Sir Elton John, Sir Paul McCartney, and Dua Lipa, the Government rejected the amendment, citing an ongoing consultation and plans for a separate AI bill.

Elsewhere, following reports that up to 170 Labour MPs, including party loyalists, are preparing to rebel over upcoming Welfare Reform votes, it is understood that Minister Liz Kendall is due to meet with the dissenting MPs to offer reassurance. This follows Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ firm stance against a U-turn on the reforms. Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has also confirmed that her party will oppose the proposed changes.

News

Spending Review

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) was given £2 billion in funding for 2028–29 and £700 million in capital funding for 2029–30 at the Spending Review resulting in a real terms cut of 1.2%. The Treasury argued that the investment provided will boost the creative industries, supports youth and sports infrastructure, and ensures investment in cultural and heritage institutions across the UK. Also included is funding for major sporting events, youth services, and £132.5 million from dormant assets to support disadvantaged young people. As with all Departments DCMS will need to deliver 5% in savings through efficiencies, this is being achieved via estate reductions and the closure of the National Citizen Service. DCMS aims to drive regional growth, innovation, and community engagement.

Cavendish's briefing can be found [here](#).

Chair of the Culture Media and Sports Committee on the Spending Review

Dame Caroline Dinenage, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, criticised the real-terms cut to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport’s budget, calling it a misguided decision by the Chancellor. While welcoming promised investment in the creative industries, she noted a lack of detail and raised concerns about which areas would bear the brunt of the cuts. She also warned that reductions to the FCDO budget could undermine the UK’s soft power and the BBC World Service.

Minister welcomes inbound and outbound tourism

Tourism Minister Chris Bryant confirmed that inbound and outbound travel are “equally important” to the UK economy, speaking at ABTA’s Travel Matters conference. He pledged to include outbound tourism in the forthcoming national strategy and highlighted its value to regional airports and jobs. He went on to confirm that he planned to create five centres of expertise in tourism and hospitality which he hopes

will help achieve his goal of 50 million overseas visitors by 2030. Bryant also said that he was keen for e-gates across EU airports to come in as quickly as possible to ease travel.

Market access barrier resolved

Between January and March 2025, the UK government resolved 43 market access barriers across 34 trading partners, according to the Department for Business and Trade's Digital Market Access Service. This marked an increase from the previous quarter, with 31 barriers fully resolved and 12 partially addressed. Latin America led with the highest number of resolutions, while Europe saw a decline. These quarterly statistics, now designated as Official Statistics, do not quantify the economic value of the resolved barriers or the complexity of the resolution efforts.

Employment Reforms

Employment Rights Minister Justin Madders told global leaders in Geneva that the UK's landmark Employment Rights Bill will help solve the country's productivity puzzle. Speaking at the International Labour Conference, he said the reforms will boost living standards, tackle insecure work, and make the UK more competitive. The Bill includes protections from day one, bans exploitative contracts, and promotes flexible working, with nearly 75% public support. Madders also met international counterparts to share insights on balancing workers' rights with business needs.

UK and Australia Free Trade Agreement

At the second meeting of the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee, held alongside the OECD Ministerial Council in Paris, Jonathan Reynolds MP and Don Farrell Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia celebrated deepening trade ties. In 2024, bilateral trade reached £23bn, with strong uptake of tariff preferences saving businesses millions. Ministers highlighted progress on professional qualifications and innovation, including a potential 'biobridge' for faster medical access. They reaffirmed their commitment to rules-based trade and cooperation through global forums like the WTO and CPTPP.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Questions: Touring in the EU

James Wild, Conservative MP for North West Norfolk, asked the Minister for the Cabinet Office:

"With reference to the (a) UK-EU Summit - Joint Statement, updated 19 May 2025, (b) UK-EU Summit - Common Understanding, updated 19 May 2025 and (c) UK-EU security and defence partnership, published 19 May 2025, what his planned timetable is for discussions with (i) the EU and (ii) EU Member States on improving access arrangements for touring in Europe."

Nick Thomas-Symonds, Minister for European Union responded:

"On 19 May, the Government published a renewed agenda for UK-EU cooperation. The Government agreed with the European Commission to proceed swiftly with the commitments and will keep Parliament updated on significant developments."

Written Question: eGates

Mike Wood, Conservative MP for Kinswinford and South Staffordshire asked the Minister for the Cabinet Office:

"With reference to paragraph 16 of his Department's policy paper entitled UK-EU Summit - Common Understanding, published on 19 May 2025, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the commencement of the EU Entry/Exit System on the use of eGates by (a) UK nationals and (b) other third party nationals travelling from the UK?"

Nick Thomas-Symonds, Minister for European Union responded:

"Since the UK left the EU, UK nationals, as third-country nationals, cannot use eGates in most Schengen countries. The UK-EU Common Understanding confirms that there will be no legal barriers to eGate use for British Nationals traveling to and from EU Member States after the introduction of the EU's Entry/Exit System (EES). This is a positive step forward and we can now work quickly with Member States to get these arrangements in place and improve our citizens' travel experience reducing lengthy and imbalanced queues at various entry points across the EU. We continue to work with the European Commission, France and local authorities to ensure we are prepared for the introduction of EES."

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

Get in touch



cavendishconsulting.com