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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 13th

October



EIA Update

The EIA attended the Tourism Industry Council meeting earlier this week, chaired by Minister for Media, Tourism and Creative Industries, Sir John Whittingdale. The agenda focussed on technology and how it could be used to drive the growth of tourism and the creative industries. The EIA commented that the Tourism Industry Council is successfully creating widespread value, enhanced experiences, and sustainable efficiencies across business events.

We suggested that events could and should be used as a platform to inform and educate, as well as drive knowledge and change for all tourism and creative businesses. We reiterated that events, in many instances, are a showcase for key markets important to the UK, and DCMS have asked for evidence and case studies which are being created through the Events Industry Board Working Group. Our ask was that the Inter-Ministerial Group discusses ways in which events could be used to fuel the adoption of technology in the tourism and creative industries, and the growth of other sectors of importance to the UK Government.

Political Update

By most accounts, Labour Party Conference was a success with a buzzy atmosphere and excitement as the Labour leader and his Shadow Cabinet positioned themselves as a Government in waiting. This conference was a clear indication as to what the Labour election campaign will look like. It will be a campaign of setting out the failures, as Labour sees them, of the past 13 years.

It will be a campaign of hope and optimism that this country can do better. But it will also be a campaign of pragmatism, that it is going to take time, should the British people give them a chance, to “rebuild Britain”.

In his speech, Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer stated his desire to reform the NHS, reform the planning system which he currently views as “restrictive”, as well as implementing more protections for workers and collaborating with private business in creating a National Wealth Fund to help rebuild the country. Alongside the National Wealth Fund, Starmer outlined his industrial strategy for growth.

Deputy Leader, Angela Rayner spoke and introduced Labour’s new deal for working people – committing to it within the first 100 days of Labour being in office – which includes a ban on zero-hour contracts, ending fire and rehire, measures to close the gender pay gap, making work more family-friendly, tackling sexual harassment and boosting wages.

Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, gave a speech outlining several policies. Reeves set out her plan to have an approach to the national budget that is founded in economic accountability. She also announced plans to increase stamp duty for overseas property buyers; to impose a more extensive windfall tax on energy companies; to build a more self-sufficient supply chain; introducing a “real” living wage; and finally increased scrutiny of Government spending – particularly with regards to consultancy.

News

Chief Secretary hosts AI meeting to boost public sector productivity

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, met with experts in artificial intelligence (AI) to discuss the technology’s potential to drive public sector productivity in a safe and secure way. Hosting a roundtable of academic and business leaders in the Treasury, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the safe use of AI can be a key driver of productivity growth, saving taxpayers money while improving public services.

The Chief Secretary listened to experts from academia and industry to better understand how companies are already using AI safely to benefit their staff and consumers, including using it to improve customer experiences and how the US Bureau of Labor Statistics has used artificial intelligence to relieve employees of tedious and repetitive tasks, saving staff 25,000 working hours.

The Chief Secretary asked for opinions on what would be required to implement AI safely and responsibly, noting the UK has attracted £18 billion of private investment since 2016 and is third in the 2022 Government AI Readiness Index and highest in Western Europe, but was placed tenth in the public sector category.

Department for Business and Trade share export advice for SMEs doing business in the UK and overseas

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT), at the seventh UK-US SME Dialogue, launched a toolkit designed for SMEs looking to trade between the UK and the USA. The toolkit outlines where SMEs can find support in the UK from DBT and other sources to help their businesses grow and export, particularly to the USA.

Department for Transport publishes outcome of consultation on driving licence flexibility for alternatively-fuelled vehicles

The Department for Transport published the Government's response to a consultation on changes to driving licence flexibility to support uptake of zero emission vehicles between 3,500kg and 4,250kg. The Government's proposed changes to legislation are to:

- change the types of powertrains eligible for the licence flexibility, from alternatively-fuelled to zero emission vehicles only
- remove the 5-hour training requirement
- expand the legislation to all vehicles eligible to be driven on a standard licence
- allow drivers to use the flexibility to tow a trailer in line with the rules for other vehicles

Parliament

Parliament will return from recess on Monday 16th October.

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

Get in touch



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