

# CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 13th**

**September**



## **EIA Update**

Over the last week we have been busy continuing our Government engagement programme. We successfully submitted a Submission to the Treasury ahead of the Autumn Budget which is due on 30th October. We used the opportunity to call for the creation of a business events growth programme to help create incentives to boost the sector. Such a programme would stimulate innovation, boost employment, and activate regional economic development.

## **Political Update**

Despite coming under fire over the decisions to cut winter fuel payments, the Government has continued to fulfil some their policy promises this week including pushing forward its new deal for working people at the TUC conference as well as progressing their Renters' Rights Bill.

Parliament has also been busy electing Select Committee Chairs, with these finalised on Wednesday. Elections of relevance are outlined below.

Parliament is now in recess for Conference season. The Liberal Democrats will hold its annual conference from Saturday 14 September, followed by the Labour party on Sunday 22 September and the Conservative Party conference on Sunday 29 September.

Elsewhere this week, the Conservative party had their second round of voting which saw Mel Stride eliminated and Robert Jenrick and Kemi Badenoch remaining the two front runners whilst James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat were joint next best.

In Scotland, speculation has begun about a potential snap election due to a budget standoff since the Scottish Government is struggling to gain support from opposition parties for its budget proposals, leading to political tension.

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## News

### [Caroline Dinenage elected as Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee](#)

Dame Caroline Dinenage, Conservative MP for Gosport was re-elected as Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee. She will lead the committee's work to scrutinise Government policies relating and issues relating to Culture, Media and Sport.

Upon her election she said "These sectors are our global economic super-power, they have remarkable abilities to drive regeneration and bring communities together." as she pledged to continue to provide effective cross-party scrutiny.

### [UK to expand digital travel to more visitors](#)

The Government is expanding the digital travel authorisation system to more visitors in an effort to streamline the immigration process. From 27 November 2024, eligible non-Europeans can apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), required for travel from 8 January 2025. This will extend to eligible Europeans from 5 March 2025, with ETAs mandatory from 2 April 2025. The ETA, costing £10, allows multiple UK visits for up to six months over two years. This initiative brings the UK inline with practices in countries like the US and Australia.

### [The Music industry ask Labour to fulfil their promise to cut Brexit red tape](#)

The UK's creative industries are urging Sir Keir Starmer's Government to secure better conditions for touring artists in the EU, despite negative signals from Brussels. The "Cut the Red Tape" campaign, launching on Wednesday, aims to pressure Labour to honour its manifesto commitment to ease EU work for UK creatives. Internal EU documents indicate Brussels is unwilling to reopen the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Deborah Annetts, CEO of the Independent Society of Musicians, stressed the importance of a deal for the sector. The campaign, supported by groups like Creative Powerhouse, highlights the impact of Brexit on touring musicians, who face visa and permit challenges. The UK music sector, with £4bn in global exports, has seen a decline in EU bookings post-Brexit. The Starmer government is under pressure to negotiate better terms for creatives, but the EU warns changes are unlikely without rejoining the single market or customs union.

### [Ministers hold further meetings with SMEs about upcoming Make Work Pay plans](#)

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds hosted a Small Business Breakfast in Downing Street to discuss the Make Work Pay plan. This meeting is part of a series aimed at engaging with businesses of all sizes to discuss the upcoming legislation. The focus is on the Employment Rights Bill, which aims to end exploitative zero-hour contracts, extend day one employment protections on unfair dismissal, and deliver a genuine living wage. This is part of strategy to reassure small businesses that their voices will be heard over the plans. This was one of the Labour party's flagship policies to transform the labour market and supporting

small businesses through reforms such as modernising business rates, tackling late payments, boosting exports, improving access to finance, and revitalising high streets.

### **GDP doesn't grow for a second month in a row**

For the second month in a row UK GDP did not increase in July. This comes as Rachel Reeves has warned of tough decisions in the upcoming budget on 30th October. The Services industry had an output growth of 0.1% in July following a decrease of 0.1% in June.

### **Business Intelligence request**

In this weeks Professional and Business Services Bulletin an intelligence gathering request has been made. The request welcomes any business views (with specific examples if available) on:

- Business investment sentiment including opportunities.
- Any barriers to investment and growth.
- Other emerging issues within the sector.

Responses can be emailed via the link in the title.

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## **Parliament**

House of Commons

### **Debate on Dynamic Pricing**

On 10th September a debate was held on Dynamic Pricing. Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Tourism and Arts, criticised the practice for its negative impact on consumers, particularly in music and entertainment events. He highlighted how algorithms inflate prices based on demand, making tickets unaffordable for many fans. Bryant called for stricter regulations to ensure transparency and fairness, and greater oversight of ticketing companies.

Committee Chair Dame Caroline Dinenage echoed these concerns, especially regarding the recent Oasis reunion. She pointed out the significant impact of dynamic pricing on genuine music fans, who struggle to afford tickets due to inflated prices. Dinenage urged the Government to implement stricter regulations to protect consumers and ensure fair access to events. She emphasised the need for a balanced approach that supports both the music industry and fans.

### **Written Question on the establishment of Skills England**

Luke Chambers, Labour MP for York Outer asked the Secretary of State for Education whether there was a planned timetable for the establishment of Skills England.

Janet Daby, Minister for Families and Children responded confirming that the announcement of Skills England on 22nd July established it immediately. Since then progress has been made towards it becoming a fully-formed Arm's Length Body. She confirmed that it would continue to be established in phases over the next 9 to 12 months.

### **International Trade Shows to be used to help promote British seafood**

Steve Darling Liberal Democrat MP for Torbay asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he plans to take to promote British seafood (a) domestically and (b) abroad.

Daniel Zeichner Minister for Rural Affairs and Food Security confirmed that a range of measures were being used to promote British seafood including past investment which enabled UK businesses to attend international seafood trade shows and take part in trade missions. The investment is in its last year of a three programme and he did not confirm if it would be extended.

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

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