

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 14th
February



EIA Update

This week, we submitted our response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's call for views to inform future inquiries. We requested the Committee consider a session focused on the business events industry and how the Government can partner with us in the future. Following recent meeting with the Committee's Chair Dame Caroline Dineage, we feel positive that our asks will be considered. We look forward to meeting with Committee member Jo Platt later this month to reiterate our asks.

We also met with Cavendish this week to discuss our public affairs strategy for 2025 and look forward to progressing this over the coming months.

To help with our engagement with Government and to help quantify the impact of Brexit 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, UK politics has been dominated by concerns over escalating global trade tensions and their potential impact on the domestic economy. President Donald Trump's administration announced 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, prompting fears among UK manufacturers about increased costs and reduced competitiveness. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is actively engaging in negotiations to mitigate these effects, while experts warn of possible economic slowdowns and emphasize the need for strategic responses.

Domestically, Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds has expressed concerns that the current economic climate may result in a generation missing out on financial prosperity.

Despite narrowly avoiding a recession with 0.1% growth in the last quarter of 2024, the UK's GDP per capita fell by approximately 0.1% for the year.

The Office for National Statistics has published [its latest dashboard](#) showing changes across 59 measures used to assess national wellbeing. For each measure, the ONS says whether change is positive, negative or neither since the last assessment. Topic areas that have shown improvement include physical health, renewable energy use and trust in Government.

Lastly, Public Health Minister Andrew Gwynne has been removed from his post after a series of offensive messages were leaked by the Mail on Sunday. His replacement – Ashley Dalton – was confirmed on Monday.

News

[UK economy grows 0.1% in last quarter.](#)

The UK economy unexpectedly grew in the final three months of last year following a boost to the construction and services sectors. The economy expanded by 0.1% between October and December, according to official figures, despite analysts predicting it would contract. Growth in the quarter was driven by a range of industries, from pubs and bars to machinery manufacturers, having a strong December. However, the figures also indicated living standards last year were slightly lower than in 2023 on average. With tax rises coming into force in April, concerns remain that economic growth will remain sluggish for sometime.

[Government launches consultation on electronic invoicing.](#)

HMRC and the Department for Business and Trade are seeking views on standardising electronic invoicing and increasing its adoption across UK businesses and the public sector. E-invoicing automates the exchange of invoices between buyers and suppliers and has the potential to both support businesses and tax administration. The Government have published a consultation to understand how e-invoicing may align with you or your customers' businesses. Responses should be sent by 7 May 2025, by email to invoicingconsultation@hmrc.gov.uk or by [submitting this form](#).

[Business Secretary delivers speech on growth ambitions.](#)

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds spoke at Samsung KX in London on the Government's ambitions for growth. He spoke of the Government's efforts to break down barriers to growth for business, including the Industrial Strategy and Trade Strategy. The full transcript can be found in the above link.

[Brexit reset tested in fight about finance.](#)

Two major regulatory decisions taken by UK watchdogs have led to an outcry from Brussels, which could make for an awkward conversation as officials from the European Commission and the British Treasury meet in London on Wednesday for the third in a series of UK/EU financial services meetings. It is feared that the decision could work to derail ongoing talks of a Brexit reset under the Labour Government.

[Transport Minister launches regional roadshows.](#)

The Minister for Local Transport Simon Lightwood visited Manchester this week to launch the Department for Transport's regional roadshows. The roadshows, which involve a series of roundtables and discussions, will gather insights from councils, businesses and communities to shape a 10-year strategy for seamless, integrated journeys that empower local leaders to build the best transport system for their communities.

Parliament

House of Commons

Business and Trade Committee examine Industrial Strategy.

The Business and Trade Committee held an Oral Evidence session this week as part of its inquiry into the Government's industrial Strategy. The inquiry will consider the Government's proposals for a 10-year modern industrial strategy, scrutinise the proposals in the Government's Green Paper and make recommendations for the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Committee heard from trade union representatives, academics and industry heads. A transcript from this session is yet to be published.

House of Lords

Lords Debate Martyn's Law.

Members of the House of Lords debated the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill this week, with notable contributions from Lord Davies of Gower who said:

"Premises operators, many of whom are already facing financial and operational pressures, may view the introduction of this provision as increasing their exposure to litigation. This could have the unintended consequence of discouraging proactive security measures if operators become overly concerned about the risk of legal action. It is essential that the Bill strikes a balance between imposing reasonable obligations and supporting those who are making good-faith efforts to comply."

Other points raised during the debate included the potential impact on the right to protest. You can find a full transcript of the debate via the link above.
