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**Weekly
Monitoring
Friday 14th
March**



EIA Update

This week, we have arranged a meeting with Shaun Davies MP, Chair of the APPG for Events to introduce him to the EIA the discuss the work of the business events industry in more detail. We look forward to meeting with him in April.

We have also reached out Sarah Jones, Minister for Industry in the Department of Business and Trade, and offered a meeting to discuss the role of the business events industry in showcasing UK business and how our industry can support delivering the Government's upcoming Industrial Strategy. We look forward to receiving a response from her and her team in the coming weeks.

Political Update

Domestic affairs came into the spotlight once again, this week, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivering a speech on Thursday where he outlined regulatory reform, changes to NHS England, and his plans to reform the Civil Service. Having described the state and civil service as a 'flabby state' and "overstretched, unfocused and unable to deliver the security people need today," he announced his plans to reform the civil service and significant jobs cuts.

The speech also confirmed plans to scrap NHS England in order to 'cut bureaucracy' and bring the management 'back into democratic control'. The NHS will now be exclusively run by the Department for Health and Social Care.

Expectations are rising of planned cuts to welfare spending. The Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, has said that the Government needs to 'get a grip' on the spending. There is growing unease amongst Labour backbenchers about the planned reforms and increasing likelihood that this could see the largest rebellion from the backbenchers since Labour came into power. The plans are set to be laid out next week by Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Liz Kendall, with full details to come at the upcoming Spending Review.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill had its third reading in the Lords this week. More on this can be found below.

News

SIA moves to Homeland Security

It was announced this week that the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will now come under the portfolio of Security Minister Dan Jarvis and the Home Office.

Heather Baily, Chair of the SIA and Michelle Russell, Chief Executive of the SIA, said: *"We very much welcome this move as it ensures that both functions of the SIA, which include the existing regulation of the private security industry and the new Martyn's Law regulator function, complement each other. This will improve protective security and security standards at venues across the UK.*

"We also welcome the government's intention to review the Manchester Arena Inquiry's monitored recommendation 7 (removing the in-house licensing exemption) and monitored recommendation 8 (the introduction of business licensing) in the coming weeks.

"We look forward to working with the Home Office and the UK private security industry and stakeholders to support the government's missions to make the UK safer from terrorism and 'taking back our streets'."

Entry fees to European Union

UK tourists will soon need to pay a fee to visit 30 European countries under new EU travel rules. The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will require non-EU citizens to apply for a visa waiver before travelling. This electronic travel authorisation aims to improve border security and will be linked to the traveller's passport, remaining valid for up to three years or until the passport expires. Travellers aged 18 to 70 will need to pay €7 (£6) for the visa. Additionally, the European Entry-Exit Scheme (EES) will require tourists to register their fingerprints and facial image when entering the Schengen Area. The EES is due to come into effect in October 2025. The ETIAS is expected to come into effect in the last quarter of 2026.

Edinburgh Tourist Tax

Edinburgh will become the first UK city to charge a compulsory tourist tax from July 24, 2026, adding £10 to a £200-a-night hotel room, a 5% levy had already been agreed and voted upon. According to the Council's research, there is no evidence that the tax would reduce demand or bookings however concerns that the levy will lead to a reduction in tourists are still being raised by industry. Glasgow is currently consulting on a similar levy, which would add approximately £4.29 per night. Other councils considering the tax include Argyll and Bute, Perth and Kinross, Stirling, and Highland. Aberdeen has proposed a higher rate of seven per cent. This move could set a precedent for other destinations across Scotland.

UK Economy Shrank in January

The UK economy unexpectedly contracted by 0.1% in January, contrary to predictions of a 0.1% growth. This contraction was mainly due to a decline in the manufacturing sector. The lack of growth is concerning for the Government as they prepare to deliver the Spring Statement later this month. It is now anticipated that the Office for Budget Responsibility will lower its growth forecast, following the Bank of England, which has halved its growth prediction for the UK this year.

Employment Rights Bill

MPs have backed a landmark Employment Rights Bill, passing it with a 333 to 100 vote. The Bill, described as a "once-in-a-generation chance to reshape the world of work," includes guaranteed hours, restrictions on zero-hour contracts, and new rules on "fire and rehire" practices. It also introduces a "day one" right to request flexible working and paternity leave. The Bill will now be scrutinised in the House of Lords.

Parliament

House of Lords

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill - Third Reading

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as Martyn's Law, received its third reading in the House of Lords. The Bill, named in memory of Martyn Hett, a victim of the Manchester Arena attack, aims to enhance security measures at public venues to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Lord Hanson of Flint, Lord Home Office Minister introduced the Bill, highlighting its origins in the tragic events of 22 May 2017, when a terror attack at Manchester Arena resulted in 22 deaths and over 1,000 injuries. He paid tribute to Figen Murray, Martyn Hett's mother, for her relentless campaigning, and thanked various contributors, including security services and parliamentary staff. He emphasised the Bill's importance in saving lives and its cross-party support.

Lord Davies of Gower (Conservative) expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts in scrutinising the Bill. He raised concerns about the potential burden on smaller businesses and voluntary organisations, stressing the need for proportionate and pragmatic application. He also acknowledged the Government's clarifications on the Henry VIII powers within the Bill and called for ongoing evaluation and support for those affected by its provisions.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) thanked Figen Murray and her team for their dedication. She appreciated the Minister's openness and collaboration during the Bill's progression. While acknowledging that the Bill cannot entirely stop terrorism, she recognised its significant role in enhancing public safety.

Lord Murray of Blidworth (Con) voiced concerns about the impact on volunteers and small community enterprises. He appreciated the Minister's assurance of keeping the matter under review and stressed the importance of monitoring the Bill's effects to ensure it does not discourage volunteerism.

The Bill, was passed and returned to the House of Commons. It will now enter a stage called Consideration of Amendments also known as 'Ping Pong' where both Houses Review amendments prior to Royal Assent. Lord Flint, said that he hoped the Bill would receive a speedy passage to Royal Assent.

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

Get in touch



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