

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 15th**  
**September**



## **EIA Update**

We have secured a meeting with the recently appointed Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Dame Caroline Dinenage, to introduce her to the EIA and our role. She has an important role scrutinising the work of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport which has responsibility for business events and who we engage with at an official level regularly. We will update you further after the meeting has taken place.

## **Political Update**

The Prime Minister gave a statement after his return from the G20 Summit where he seemed to have progressed the UK-India FTA after a productive conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, the UK economy is still presenting a very mixed outlook with wages rising faster than inflation whilst the UK's GDP contracted 0.5%. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt said that he sees little room for UK tax cuts in the Autumn Statement and incoming Deputy Governor of the Bank of England Sarah Breedon has warned that there is a "real risk" inflation could become embedded in the UK economy.

Finally, the controversial Strikes Bill is meeting resistance from UK trade unions after they voted almost unanimously and backed a "non-compliance" motion. UK trade unions are also reporting the Government to the UN watchdog on workers'

rights over its new anti-strike laws, stating that they fall short of international legal standards.

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## News

### UK agrees new strategic partnership with Singapore

The Prime Minister has signed a new strategic partnership with Singapore to grow the UK's economy and enhance shared security. The agreement will harness the UK and Singapore's expertise in new technologies like cyber and AI to create jobs in both countries.

Following the Strategic Partnership, the UK and Singapore will work to conclude a new and modern bilateral investment treaty – the first the UK has negotiated since we left the EU. This will give Singaporean companies more confidence to invest in the UK and vice-versa, creating jobs and growing their respective economies.

### Department for Work and Pensions publish economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over, trends over time

The Department for Work and Pensions has published statistics showing the trends over time in the economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over. Some of the key trends include:

- the employment rate for 50 to 64-year-olds is not yet back to pre-pandemic (2019) levels, although it has increased over the past year
- the employment rate of people aged 50 to 64 years has generally been statistically significantly increasing over the long-term
- being sick, injured or disabled continues to be the main reason why people aged 50 to 64 years are economically inactive in the labour market, this was the main reason given by 42.3% of older inactive adults

### HMRC launches consultation on proposed amendments in respect of salary advances

HMRC has opened a consultation on the proposed amendment regulations which allow employers to delay reporting advance payments of salary made to

an employee. This change will impact employers, who would otherwise have to report the advance and regular payment of salary to HMRC separately. It will give clarity to employers on how to report advance payments to employees.

The consultation is open until 11.45 pm on 9th October 2023.

### Deputy Leader of Labour Party makes 'cast iron commitment' on workers' rights

Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Angela Rayner outlined Labour's plans on workers' rights at last week's TUC conference. She stated that within Labour's first 100 days of office, they will bring forward an ***Employment Rights Bill*** that will not only benefit working people, but the wider economy. Of note – Ms Rayner pegged this as a 'cast iron commitment'.

This proposed bill would solidify workers' rights and would require Labour to repeal legislation Rayner pegged as 'vicious anti-trade union laws', including the current requirement that half of a workforce must vote for a strike to go ahead (brought in under David Cameron) and the more recent requirement of a minimum service provision in a strike.

The bill would include:

- Protections against unfair dismissals
- Ban on zero-hour contracts
- More flexible working
- Ending 'fire and rehire'

Labour will work 'hand in hand' with trade unions and businesses to ensure partnership is based on 'mutual respect, cooperation and negotiation.' Labour will also regulate a legal framework that 'gives trade unions a new legal, reasonable right to access workplaces', working off models in Australia, New Zealand and the Nordic States. Labour will expand the role of unions to allow for more collective bargaining on pay and conditions and ban the 'blacklisting' of union reps and workers.

Rayner ended the speech to the TUC by declaring that the 'battle' for the general election was getting started and that Labour would need the help of the unions to spread the word about its New Deal for Working People'.

### **Business and Trade Secretary signs landmark first partnership with EU nation to boost British exports**

Business and Trade Secretary, Kemi Badenoch has signed a UK-Italy export and investment partnership – the first of its kind between the UK and any EU country post-Brexit. The partnership is aimed at strengthening exports in high-performing and growth sectors of the future, such as Life Sciences and Digital and Tech, as well as promoting inward investment, including low-carbon industries such as Offshore Wind and Carbon Capture Storage.

### **£12.4 million to help change choices about work**

HM Treasury has awarded £12.4 million to six innovative new projects to understand barriers to getting into work. The projects will include investigating the impact of endometriosis on women's work choices and how programmes to reduce obesity and type 2 diabetes can improve workforce participation. The projects comprise the first round of the Labour Market Evaluation and Pilots Fund and take place over the next two years. The results will help to transform the government's approach to the jobs market and drive forward research into best practice in employment.

### **New jobs announced ahead of Northern Ireland Investment Summit**

The Department for Business and Trade and the Northern Ireland Office have announced new jobs, facilities and funding ahead of the Northern Ireland Investment Summit. Around 200 investors from across the world including the US, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific attended the Summit, which has for aim to turbocharge inward investment into Northern Ireland.

It comes as professional services firm EY announces 1,000 new jobs in Northern Ireland over the next five years, opening up new and exciting employment opportunities. Once in place, the jobs are expected to contribute at least £33 million in annual salaries to the NI economy.

### **Department for Business and Trade Announces £1 billion has been loaned to SMEs**

The Government has announced that over £1 billion has been loaned to SMEs via the Government's Start Up loan scheme, which offers finance to newly created small businesses. Over 100,000 businesses have been recipients of these loans which have been delivered through the state-owned British Business Bank since 2012.

## Parliament

### House of Commons

#### Topical Questions to Secretary of State for Business and Trade

During a Topical Oral Questions session to the Department for Business and Trade, Theresa Villiers MP (Conservative, Chipping Barnet) asked the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, "As chair of the all-party parliamentary group for events, can I highlight the huge benefits the sector brings us in promoting trade, exports and inward investment? Will the Department do more to promote the UK worldwide as a great place to bring international events, business meetings and conferences?"

Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Kemi Badenoch MP, responded:

*"My right hon. Friend raises a good point. The events industry is often overlooked, yet it is a great export opportunity. Those are some of the things I am going to raise with the Board of Trade, which is meeting next week. It is about promoting the best of British internationally. Events is one of the areas we can take a closer look at."*

#### Written question to Treasury on Productivity

Shadow Exchequer Secretary, Tanmanjeet Dhesi asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "what fiscal steps he is taking to improve productivity."

Exchequer to the Secretary, Gareth Davies responded:

*"The Chancellor has outlined his plans to boost private sector productivity and long-term economic growth with a package of measures under the 'four Es' of economic growth: Employment, Enterprise, Education, and Everywhere."*

*"The Government has introduced several fiscal measures to increase productivity. For example, we have introduced full expensing – giving the UK the most generous capital allowances regime in the OECD on a Net Present Value basis to increase business investment and boost labour productivity. We increased the R&D Expenditure Credit relief rate to 20% – the joint highest uncapped headline rate of R&D tax relief in the G7 for large companies."*

*"We are supporting our world leading green industries. For example, up to £20bn of funding has been provided for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage, and we are working with investors through our Automotive Transformation Fund to"*

*build a globally competitive electric vehicle supply chain in the UK. Furthermore, the Investment Zones programme will catalyse 12 high potential knowledge-intensive growth clusters across the UK.*

*“We are also ensuring our labour market is more productive through our investment in skills and the Chief Secretary is currently leading a programme across government to identify the most ambitious ways to improve productivity in the public sector.”*

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

**Get in touch**



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