



Weekly Monitoring
16th December
2022



Political Update

Pay negotiations across a number of sectors are proving to be fruitless as strikes continue well into Christmas and the New Year. The strikes are still widespread and posing great disruption for the Government to grapple with. Despite inflation falling slightly from 11.1% to 10.7%, the Bank of England has still increased interest rates from 3% to 3.5%, marking the ninth time in a row interest rates have gone up and bringing them to their highest level for 14 years.

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak's official spokesperson has also announced that the King's Speech, which will set out the Government's next programme of legislation will be delayed until autumn of next year to ensure the Government can get through its "packed" agenda.

EIA Update

Update on interactions with the Shadow Cabinet

On Monday 19th December, the EIA will meet with the Labour MP for Brentford and Isleworth and Shadow Minister for International Trade, Ruth Cadbury.

Update on interactions with DCMS

Tourism Industry Council Working group Chair meeting

The EIA attended a meeting with officials and the Chairs of the four working groups of the TIC to help shape the strategy for 2023, and ways in which the TIC engages with officials, and Inter ministerial groups. Various proposals have been sent to the Minister for Tourism (whom we are meeting on the 18th January from EIA's position of Chair of UKEVENTS).

Business Tourism Industry Group

The Business Tourism Industry Group has recently been formed, from the various players who were part of the TIER group that EIA relied on during the pandemic. This was a meeting to look at plans for 2023, but it was also another opportunity to reference business events, and cement our position at the table going forward.

Update on interactions with BEIS

The EIA has held regular meetings with officials, seeking feedback on the Energy Price Cap (which sits with the Treasury), and provided projections for the year ahead – highlighting concerns on the rail strikes and the devastating impact this has both at showtime, but also on customer confidence on the run up to events, and the impact on the UK's competitiveness and attractiveness for both events and buyers. We again cited the need for certainty and long lead times on energy prices given our selling cycles.

Update on interactions with DIT

The EIA met with the Special Advisor and Head of Policy for the Secretary of State of the Department for International Trade. We discussed the export strategy and their 'race to a trillion', suggesting a focus on bringing international buying groups to existing UK events would provide an immediate and strategic positive impact to the UK economy. This spiked an interest, and we have followed up hoping for a follow up meeting in the New Year. This plays directly to a number of EIA's manifesto points, and will be weaved into the work of the Events Industry Board in the New Year.

Update on interactions with UKEVENTS

UKEVENTS held their last meeting of the year, reflecting on the new business plan and brand, which has helped get a broad range of meetings. The EIA are directly linked into a number of their projects in the year ahead, not least advocacy and talent.

News

Department for International Trade Secretary of State progresses India Free Trade Agreement negotiations

International Trade Secretary, Kemi Badenoch has conducted the sixth round of UK-India trade talks in New Dehli. She met her counterpart, Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal in an attempt reinvigorate talks on the trade deal. The talks targeted a deal to cut tariffs and open opportunities for UK services, making it easier for British businesses to sell to an economy set to be the world's third largest by 2050.

Department for Work and Pensions publish response to report on: 'Supporting progression out of low pay: a call to action'

The Department for Work and Pensions has published its response to the In-Work Progression Commission's Report – '[Supporting progression out of low pay: a call to action](#)'. The response covers topics such as giving people greater opportunities to develop new skills or enhance and utilise existing skills, and providing targeted help for people who need extra support in tackling barriers to working more hours and taking up opportunities for higher skilled, higher paying jobs.

Department for Transport announce biggest change to airport security rules in decades

The Department for Transport has set a deadline of June 2024 by which they will require airports to install new security technology to enable passengers to leave liquids and large electrical items in cabin luggage as they go through security. The changes are expected to gradually occur over the next two years.

Parliament

House of Commons

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education gives Skills Update

Minister for Skills, Apprenticeship and Higher Education, Robert Halfon, gave a statement in the House of Commons to provide an update on the Government's commitment to provide a comprehensive and clear skills offer for employers and individuals.

The main purpose of this announcement was to declare the Government's decision to integrate the Traineeship programme into the 16-19 study programme and adult education provision from 1st August 2023. This means that the Department of Education will no longer fund the delivery of traineeships through a standalone national programme from that point.

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee respond to BEIS' closure of Help to Grow Scheme closure

Business, Energy and Industrial Committee Chair, Darren Jones commented on BEIS' [decision](#) to close the Help To Grow: Digital Scheme due to low uptake saying: *"Once again, a Government designed product has failed because Ministers refused to listen to business. The intention of the help to grow scheme was good, and government should support business in this way, but it must do so in partnership and not with a 'Whitehall knows best' approach."*

The scheme provided advice and discounts of up to £5,000 to businesses looking to procure digital technologies had been designed to help 100,000 small and medium enterprises, but just less than one thousand took up the offer.

Education Committee launch inquiry into childcare affordability and early years education

The House of Commons Education Committee has launched an inquiry into the childcare sector and early years education, examining why it has become too expensive for a growing proportion of young families. The committee will investigate a number of issues, including how the support for childcare impacts parents and carers returning to work.

The inquiry will accept evidence until Thursday 19th January 2023.

Written questions to the Home Office on Counter-terrorism: Public Places

Shadow Minister for Security, Holly Lynch asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, "when she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to create the Protect Duty."

Minister for Security, Tom Tugendhat replied:

"The first duty of the Government is to protect the public, and we are committed to improving the security of public places, to ensure the public can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The commitment made to the 'Protect Duty' in the Queen's Speech and the 2019 manifesto remains, and we are working hard to bring forward this important piece of legislation as soon as possible."

Oral questions to the Department for International Trade on Exports

Labour MP for Bedford, Mohammad Yasin, asked the Secretary of State for International Trade "what steps she is taking to increase exports."

Minister for Exports, Andrew Bowie replied:

"This Department and, in fact, this entire Government are committed to growing our exports. We are going to export our way to growth and, in the 12 months to December 2022, trade was worth £748 billion. We are rolling out our export support service, making export champions more visible and more available across all nations and regions of this United Kingdom. We are committed to working with small and medium-sized enterprises to get them into exporting and we are supporting those companies that export already. We are driving up exports from this country and our new independent trade policy—something that, if the Labour party had its way, we would not have in the first place—allows us to do just that."

Key dates

December 2022: Publication of Energy Bill Relief Scheme review outcome



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