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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 17th

January



EIA Update

The EIA was delighted to attend the Creative Industries Growth Summit in Gateshead today, hosted by Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, Lisa Nandy and have the opportunity discuss how the creative industries can be used to promote growth and advocate for the Events Industry.



On Monday, we will be meeting with the Chair of the Culture Media and Sport Committee, Dame Caroline Dinenage. This meeting will build upon our previous engagement with Dame Caroline and we hope to engage with her committee over the coming Parliament.

We are also looking forward to our meetings with Civil Servants from both the Department of Culture Media and Sport and Department of Business and Trade. These meetings indicate the beginning of our monthly meetings with both Department this year.

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 saw the Chancellor call in regulators to Downing Street to discuss their plans to boost economic growth, emphasising the need to shift from regulating for risk to regulating for growth. This came amid news that the economy grew only 0.1% in

November, falling short of expectations and intensifying pressure on the Chancellor to introduce effective measures for growth.

Regulators already operate under a legally binding “growth duty” introduced in 2017, which requires them to consider the importance of promoting economic growth while ensuring that any regulatory action is necessary and proportionate.

Tulip Siddiq, has resigned from her position as Economic Secretary to the Treasury after coming under fire for links to the ousted Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Hasina, her aunt. Her replacement has been announced as Emma Reynolds.

The Prime Minister tried to move the conversation on from economic woes this week by announcing the Government's AI Opportunities Action Plan, saying that it will ‘create a roadmap’ to harness the power of AI across the public and private sectors as a way to improve growth and productivity. This Action Plan was authored by tech entrepreneur Matt Clifford and features 50 recommendations which Ministers have “accepted” and will “take forward”, however media reports suggest that not all of them will end up in the format that they were suggested.

Today a £60 million investment has been announced for the Creative Industries by Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy during the Creative Industries Growth Summit, which the EIA were in attendance for. More on this can be found below.

Across the pond Donald Trump is due to be inaugurated on 20th January 2025 as the 47th President of the United States.

News

Creative Industries Investment

The Government has today unveiled a £60 million funding boost for the creative industries, marking the first step of its Sector Plan. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy announced the plan at the Creative Industries Growth Summit, focusing on investments in start-up video game studios, grassroots music venues, and creative businesses to enhance British music and film exports. This has been touted as the first step in the sector plan with the publication of the full Creative Industries Sector Plan in Spring 2025. The British Business Bank will also increase its support for the sector, helping creative businesses access the finance they need to grow.

Priority regions were also announced including the North East, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater London, West of England, South Wales, Glasgow, the Edinburgh-Dundee corridor, and Belfast.

The Government will also introduce shorter apprenticeships from August 2025 to meet the sector's specific needs. The Creative Industries Taskforce, chaired by Baroness Shriti Vadera and Sir Peter Bazalgette, will continue to work on the sector plan with the

Government and more policy announcements should be expected in the coming months.

Nandy emphasised the importance of the creative industries in driving economic growth and spreading opportunity across the country. The summit comes as membership of a new Soft Power Council was announced by Nandy and the Foreign Secretary David Lammy, The Soft Power Council will bring together soft power and foreign policy experts to help drive investment and growth at home whilst also championing the UK abroad.

York Tourism Tax

City of York Council has proposed a visitor levy to raise the city's income, stating that 80% of residents supporting the introduction of a "tourist tax". The Council lacks the authority to implement the tax, and the Government has no plans to grant such powers. The Government has instead suggested that a voluntary levy could be implemented by cities. Rachael Maskell, Labour MP for Labour York Central called for local authorities to be empowered to levy charges on tourists. She has also written to the Deputy Prime Minister Angel Rayner, Chancellor Rachel Reeves, and Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy saying that estimated that charges of £1 or £2 per night could raise £1.7m and £3.4m.

Ed Davey calls for UK to rejoin Customs Union

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey has called for the UK to negotiate a new customs union deal with the EU to boost the economy and strengthen its position against the incoming Trump presidency. He criticised Trump and urged for a state visit only if Trump supports Ukraine. Davey also accused Conservative and Reform leaders of weakness. The Government and opposition figures dismissed the proposal, emphasising other global trade relationships.

UK mascot revealed for World Expo

The UK has revealed PIX, a shape-shifting mascot for Expo 2025 in Osaka. The UK Pavilion, inspired by Ada Lovelace, will showcase British innovation and aim to attract investment. Sponsors include AstraZeneca, Aston Martin, and IHG Hotels & Resorts. The Expo, running from 13 April to 13 October 2025, will feature over 150 countries and highlight breakthroughs in science, technology, and culture. The event aims to strengthen UK-Japan relations and promote UK exports.

Board Members appointed to the British Tourism Authority

Peter Gowers and Karin Sheppard have been reappointed to the British Tourism Authority Board for five-year terms until January 2030. Gowers is an experienced business leader with roles in Europcar and Travelodge, while Sheppard is Managing Director for Europe at IHG Hotels & Resorts.

Visit Britain Advisory Board

Nadine Thomson has been reappointed to the VisitEngland Advisory Board for a five-year term from until January 2030. She is President of Product Deployment & Operations at Choreograph and has extensive experience in digital, media, and travel industries, having led significant transformations and held leadership roles internationally.

Parliament

House of Commons

Topical Questions

Venue Levys

During Topical Questions for Culture, Media and Sport Jayne Kirkham, Labour MP for Truro and Falmouth asked the Secretary of State Lisa Nandy

"What steps her Department is taking to support small music venues."

Sir Chris Bryant Minister for Creative Industries, Arts, and Tourism responded by highlighting the Arts Council England's Supporting Grassroots Music fund, and said that *"we are pushing the live events industry to introduce a voluntary levy on arena and gig events to support small music venues."* Bryant went on to confirm that if the scheme does not happen voluntarily then it will be made statutory.

Tourism Tax

Sir Ashley Fox, Conservative MP for Bridgwater asked

"Will the Secretary of State reassure business owners in those towns and villages that her Government have no plans to introduce a tourism tax?"

Sir Chris Bryant Minister for Creative Industries, Arts, and Tourism responded:

"We have no plans to introduce additional taxes. I want to get 50 million international visitors coming to the UK, because our tourism industry is an important part of what we do well in this country. That is why I will be hosting the first visitor economy advisory council on Monday morning."

Rachael Maskell, Labour MP for York Central went on to advocate for a comprehensive tourism tax scheme saying that a voluntary scheme could raise £125,000 where as a compulsory scheme could raise £1.7million. Bryant again said that a voluntary scheme could be implemented such as the one in Manchester.

Live Events Ticketing: Resale and Pricing Practices

Following the launch of consultations into ticket pricing of live events last week it was debated in the House of Commons. Chris Bryant, the Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism, addressed the issue of ticketing in the live events sector, highlighting the detrimental impact of ticket touts on fans and the industry. He announced a consultation aimed at tackling the resale of live event tickets and pricing practices. Bryant emphasised the need for measures such as a statutory price cap on ticket resales, potentially limiting resale prices to the original price plus 10%, 20%, or 30%.

Saqib Bhatti, the Shadow Minister, expressed concerns about the proposed price caps, arguing that they could lead to increased black market activity and unregulated transactions, thereby reducing consumer protections.

House of Lords

Lords Committee seeks views on reset of UK-EU relations

The House of Lords European Affairs Committee is calling for evidence for its inquiry into resetting UK-EU relations. This inquiry will focus on security, defence, and trade, examining both the substance and process of the reset.

There will be two main themes:

- The substance of the reset (involving questions about what the reset is, or should be)
- The process for achieving the objectives of the reset (involving questions about how the Government pursues it with the EU, and the role of devolved administrations and other interested parties in the UK).

The Committee invites written evidence by 7 March 2025, with public sessions starting on 21 January 2025.

Key questions include the Government's aims, potential obstacles, and the impact of EU member states' politics. The inquiry will also consider the role of the new US administration, the scope of a UK-EU security pact, and priorities for trade negotiations, including veterinary agreements and professional qualifications.

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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