

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 18th

October



EIA Update

The EIA are continuing with political engagement and sent a follow up letter to Dan Jarvis following his recent speech at the International Security Expo where we once again offered to meet with him to discuss Martyn's Law which is progressing through Parliament.

We are also seeking a meeting with the chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, Dame Caroline Dinenage who we last met with in late 2023.

Political Update

This week the Prime Minister hoped to start delivering on one of the Labour Party's key missions, economic growth as the UK hosted their first International Investment Summit. The purpose of the event was to attract investment into the UK, showcasing the country's strengths in sectors like technology, AI, healthcare, and green infrastructure. The summit aimed to boost economic growth, create jobs, and reinforce the UK's position as a leading destination for global investment.

The Government launched the Green Paper on their Industrial Strategy alongside the investment summit and opened a consultation onto the issues. More information on this can be found below.

As the Autumn Budget starts to loom and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, submitted her proposals to the Office for Budget Responsibility, the rumours have started to circulate about what to expect. It has also been reported that several Ministers have written to the Prime Minister to express their concerns about the proposed budget cuts across a range of sectors.

Elsewhere the Conservative Party continued their leadership race with a televised debate on 15th October between the two remaining candidates Kemi Badenoch and Robert Jenrick hosted by GB NEWS. Following the debate a show of hands from audience indicated that Badenoch was overwhelmingly the favourite. The results of the leadership contest will be announced on 2nd November.

News

The UK Foreign Secretary attends the EU foreign ministers meeting

Foreign Secretary David Lammy attended a regular EU foreign ministers' meeting, marking the first such visit since Brexit. Invited by EU High Representative Josep Borrell, Lammy discussed the Ukraine and Middle East conflicts and Labour's agenda. He hailed the meeting as a "historic moment" for resetting UK-EU relations. The Government aims for more regular engagement with the EU, focusing on security and cooperation. This visit follows recent talks between Prime Minister Keir Starmer and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Potential rise to employers national insurance contributions

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has twice refused to rule out a rise in employers' national insurance contributions, despite Labour's manifesto promise not to raise taxes on working people. Chancellor Rachel Reeves hinted at the possibility of such a rise, suggesting executives would understand the need. Critics, including the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Confederation of British Industry, argue it would violate Labour's commitments and hinder job creation. Starmer emphasised the focus on economic growth and job creation, highlighting £63 billion in international investment secured at a recent summit. He aims to ensure these investments translate into well-paid, secure jobs nationwide.

Fall in inflation

The ONS has reported that the UK inflation rate has fallen to 1.7% in September which is the lowest rate in over three years. This brings the annual rate price below the Bank of England's 2% target which has led to further speculation on interest rate cuts in November. The September inflation figure is often used to set how much benefits will rise by next April. The fall in inflation has predominantly been driven by airfares and fuel prices dropping whilst food and non-alcoholic drink prices rose.

Latest UK trading figures

The latest UK trade figures reveal a total trade value of £1,737.1 billion for the 12 months ending August 2024, a 2.5% decrease from the previous year. UK exports fell by 4.0% to £854.9 billion, while imports decreased by 1.0% to £882.3 billion. The data, published by the ONS, also highlights a 3.4% drop in exports to the EU and a 2.1% increase in imports from the EU. Non-EU trade saw a 6.2% decline in exports and a 7.3% drop in imports. The next update is scheduled for 22 November 2024.

Separate Scottish Visa System is not being considered by the Government

Following a push from the SNPs for a Scottish visa system to attract overseas workers, the Government have told the BBC that they they are not considering the scheme. Scottish Labour MP John Grady stated that the Government is committed to attracting talented individuals to Scotland. SNP MP Stephen Gethins plans to introduce a bill to

amend the Scotland Act 1998, enabling a Scottish visa to address staff shortages. Critics argue that a separate visa system could help tackle demographic challenges and Brexit-related issues. However, the Government maintains that a unified immigration system is necessary for the entire country.

Civil Society Covenant launched

The Government has launched a new 'Civil Society Covenant' to strengthen its partnership with civil society. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy hosted a roundtable and reception with key civil society representatives to mark this initiative. The Covenant aims to harness the expertise of voluntary, community, and social enterprises to tackle pressing societal issues, drive economic growth, and improve community outcomes. This new partnership is based on trust and mutual respect, and it seeks to leverage the dynamism and innovation of civil society to address the country's biggest challenges.

Parliament

House of Commons

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill Second Reading

On the 14th October the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill was read for the second time and subsequently debated. The debate on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as Martyn's law, was marked by heartfelt tributes and detailed discussions on the necessity and implications of the legislation. The Bill aims to enhance security at public venues to protect against terrorist attacks, following the tragic Manchester Arena bombing.

- **Yvette Cooper Home Secretary**, introduced the Bill, emphasising its critical role in preventing future tragedies like the Manchester Arena attack. She highlighted the Bill's focus on requiring venues to assess terrorist risks and implement appropriate security measures. Cooper mentioned the tiered approach, with larger venues needing more comprehensive protections.
- **Dan Jarvis Minister for Security**, reiterated the Government's commitment to public safety and the proportionality of the Bill. He assured that the Security Industry Authority (SIA) would support and advise businesses to comply with the new requirements. Jarvis also addressed concerns about the potential burden on smaller venues, ensuring that the measures would be practical and proportionate.
- **James Cleverly Shadow Home Secretary**, expressed support for the Bill but raised concerns about the regulatory burden on businesses. He stressed the need for a balanced approach to ensure venues remain viable while enhancing security. Cleverly highlighted the importance of regular reviews and feedback mechanisms to adjust the implementation of the Bill as needed.
- **Lisa Smart, Liberal Democrat spokesperson**, highlighted the importance of Martyn's law in ensuring that public venues are better prepared for potential terrorist attacks. Smart supported the Bill's measures to improve venue security and emphasised the need for collaboration between the Government, businesses, and campaigners to ensure its successful implementation. She

also stressed the importance of providing clear guidance and support to help venues, especially smaller ones, comply with the new requirements effectively.

Many MPs stressed the importance of ensuring that the Bill's requirements are proportionate and practical, particularly for smaller venues and community spaces. There were calls for clear guidance, support, and potential financial assistance to help these venues comply with the new measures. There was a consensus on the need for regular reviews and feedback mechanisms to ensure the Bill's effective implementation. MPs called for the Government to engage with stakeholders and adjust the measures as needed based on practical experience and feedback.

The Bill was voted through and will now go onto a Public Bill Committee for line by line scrutiny to conclude by Tuesday 19th November.

Industrial Strategy Green Paper

The Green Paper for the Industrial Strategy was launched on 14th October alongside the Investment summit. The Strategy is focused on sectors with the greatest growth potential including; life sciences, financial services, professional and business services, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, creative industries, defence, and digital technologies.

In the next stage of development of the Industrial Strategy, the Government will identify subsectors within these broad sectors to also be prioritised. These will be sectors that meet the Government's objectives and where there is evidence that policy can address barriers to growth. The policy areas to be addressed include people and skills, innovation, energy and infrastructure, the regulatory environment, crowding in investment, and international partnerships and trade. A full briefing note on the industrial strategy note can be found [here](#).

In the coming months the Government will work with business, unions, experts, representative groups, and other stakeholders to develop the Industrial Strategy. A consultation on the Green Paper was opened and will run until 11:59pm on 24 November 2024.

Visitor Levies

During questions on Culture Media and Sport, John Lamont, Conservative MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk, asked *"What assessment has been made of the potential impact of visitor levies in Scotland and Wales on inbound UK tourism?"*

The Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism Sir Chris Bryant responded by saying that: *"Responsibility for tourism levies is devolved, but we want to watch what happens in Scotland and Wales with close interest. One of my main hopes is to increase the number of international visitors to the UK, and ensure more and more visitors come not only to London and the south-east, but travel across the whole United Kingdom."* he also confirmed that *"the UK Government have no plans to introduce visitor levies at the moment"*

Dynamic Pricing

During questions on Culture Media and Sport Jerome Mayhew, Conservative MP for Broadland and Fakenham, asked when a consultation would be launched into secondary ticketing and dynamic pricing. Sir Chris Bryant Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism responded saying that his paper said 'autumn' but that it would be 'soon'.

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

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