

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 19th
January



EIA Update

We received confirmation this week that representatives from the EIA will be invited to attend an upcoming Events Roundtable hosted by Shadow Creative and Digital Minister, Sir Chris Bryant MP.

Political Update

This week, the Government's political attentions were dominated by the Safety of Rwanda Bill. The Bill completed passage through the Commons, but only after Sunak faced the largest internal rebellion of his premiership and lost several key members of his payroll vote. Lee Anderson and Brendan Clarke-Smith resigned from their positions as Conservative party vice-chairs, while Jane Stevenson resigned from her role as PPS to Kemi Badenoch, Secretary of State for Business and Trade. The Prime Minister faced down the right of his party and won, but emerged politically damaged by the experience. He now faces the significant challenge of navigating the Bill through the Lords under scrutiny of from centre-right Conservatives and opposition peers.

Meanwhile, Labour [published their 'campaign bible' this week.](#) The document entitled 'Let's get Britain's future back' signifies a step toward the next phase of the party's election and campaign preparations, including further details on the five key missions, launched last year.

In Parliament next week, the Business and Trade Committee will hear evidence on the UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee will hear

evidence on 'Keeping the power on: our future energy technology mix', and the Business and Trade Department has Oral Questions.

News

Critical Imports and Supply Chain strategy published.

The Department for Business and Trade have published the UK's first critical imports and supply chain strategy, which aims to help UK businesses build secure and reliable supply chains

The strategy sets out how the Government will work with business and international partners across 5 priorities:

1. Making the UK government a centre of excellence for supply chain analysis and risk assessment.
2. Removing critical import barriers to support the UK's business-friendly environment.
3. Building the UK's response to global supply chain shocks.
4. Ensuring the UK can adapt to long-term trends.
5. Expanding collaboration between government, business and academia

More than 100 UK firms contributed to the strategy to ensure it helps develop resilient and secure supply chains that protect both their business and the consumers who rely on them.

New data shows SME business activity has returned to growth.

New data released by NatWest has shown that business activity with UK SMEs in December had expanded at the fastest rate in seven months.

This was led by renewed growth in the service economy, although manufacturers saw an increased decline.

Business optimism among SMEs reaches highest level since March 2022, despite rising costs caused by inflation.

Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor in Davos to boost UK ties with international investors.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt met with key tech investors in Davos this week in an attempt to affirm the vision of the UK being a world leader in science and technology and "ripe for investment from the international business community."

Among investors expected to sit down with the Chancellor are Microsoft, OpenAI and Pfizer.

Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves is also expected to meet with American tech bosses in order to try and encourage them to invest in the UK. Ms Reeves has been keen to win over business ahead of the general election and committed to overseeing a responsible tax and spending policy, stating:

“I want a Labour government to be ready from day one to start attracting jobs and investment in the industries of the future. We are competing in a changing economy and I want the next Labour government to be part of that change. That job starts this week at Davos.”

Second Phase of VCSE Scheme opened.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport have announced that the second part of its funding scheme to support voluntary, communities and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations with their energy efficiency has opened.

It is part of the package of over £100 million of support announced by the Government at the Spring Budget 2023 to help frontline delivery organisations with the increased cost of living.

Eligible organisations can apply for the cost and delivery of an independent energy assessment. This part of the scheme opened to applications in December 2023, and will remain open until August 2024, with decisions being made on a rolling basis.

The second phase of the scheme is open to those organisations who have completed an energy assessment. The organisations may then be eligible to apply for a capital grant to install the recommended energy efficiency measures in their premises. This part of the scheme opened to applications in January 2024 and organisations can apply through three grant rounds, the last of which will close in August 2024.

Parliament

House of Commons

Energy Security and Net Zero Questions on engagement with businesses on net zero targets.

Shadow Roads Minister and Labour MP for Sefton Central, Bill Esterson, asked the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero what recent discussions she has had with businesses on the Government’s net zero targets.

Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero, Graham Stuart, responded:

“I meet regularly with business leaders and chair several groups bringing together Government and industry so that we can drive progress towards net zero. That includes the Net Zero Council, which is meeting next week and includes members from right across the economy. Like me, they are delighted that the UK is leading the world in tackling climate change. We are the first major economy to halve its emissions, ahead of every other major economy, and we have one of the most ambitious decarbonisation targets in the world.”

Energy Security and Net Zero Questions on engagement with businesses on net zero targets.

Labour MP for Stockton North Alex Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero what steps her Department is taking to help energy-intensive industries to decarbonise.

Minister for Affordability and Skills, Amanda Solloway, responded:

“As chair of the all-party group on carbon capture, utilisation and storage, the hon. Member will know that the Government have committed £20 billion to support the early development of carbon capture, usage and storage, and up to £500 million for the industrial energy transformation fund to help industry to decarbonise, with phase 3 opening shortly.”

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

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