

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 19th**

**September**



*Please find an amended version to confirm it is Bridget Phillipson running to be Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.*

## **EIA Update**

This week, we reached out to Minister Stephanie Peacock to congratulate her on her newly expanded role as Minister for Sport, Tourism, and Civil Society in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

We also held a meeting with most of the speakers for our upcoming panel event at the Labour Party Conference and are looking forward to what promises to be an engaging and lively discussion.

## **Political Update**

The fallout from Lord Mandelson's dismissal continued this week, with further scrutiny of his appointment. Against this backdrop, President Donald Trump made history by undertaking a second state visit to the UK, accompanied by leading global tech executives and announcing a wave of investments across nuclear, AI, and technology sectors.

The visit came at a challenging time for the Prime Minister, who faces ongoing political and economic pressures. While the visit secured £150 billion in inward investment, it has yet to yield concessions on sensitive issues such as the Digital Services Tax, NHS data, and AI or copyright regulation.

Following the Cabinet reshuffle, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) confirmed ministerial responsibilities. Sir Chris Bryant, in his new role as Minister for Trade, is now responsible for the Creative Industries within DBT.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party's Deputy Leadership race has continued to hot up with both Lucy Powell and Bridget Phillipson out on the campaign trail. A LabourList poll by Survation indicated that 47% of members support Lucy Powell.

Elsewhere, Zarah Sultana has accused Jeremy Corbyn of enabling a "sexist boys' club" that excluded women from key decisions in launching their new left-wing party, sparking a public dispute over transparency and control. The row escalated after an unauthorised membership email prompted legal action and criticism, despite the party attracting over 750,000 supporters.

Parliament has risen for conference recess and is due to return on 13th October.

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## News

### International Trade Week 2025

The Government has announced International Trade Week (ITW) 2025 will run from 3rd to 7th November, offering a range of online and in person free events, workshops, and webinars to help British businesses export and grow. Sponsored by Santander UK, the initiative supports firms of all sizes to access global markets and benefit from recent trade deals with the US, EU and India. Led by the Department for Business and Trade, this will be the fifth year of ITW.

### UK Trade

The UK's trade performance continues to show resilience, with total trade reaching £1.83 trillion in the 12 months to July 2025. Exports stood at £894 billion and imports at £938 billion, with non-EU trade growing faster than EU trade. The UK ranked fourth globally for both exports and imports, and third for inward foreign direct investment. Business services continue to lead the UK's export performance, generating £191.8 billion in the four quarters to June 2025. Over 279,000 GB businesses exported in 2023, representing 11.5% of the non-financial business economy.

### UK interest rate

The Bank of England has held interest rates at 4% and reduced its quantitative tightening target from £100bn to £70bn, citing inflationary pressures. Governor Andrew Bailey attributed part of the inflation rise to Government policies, including higher payroll taxes. The Monetary Policy Committee signalled caution on future rate cuts, warning of medium-term inflation risks. Despite slowing QT, active bond sales will rise to £21bn. The move aims to balance monetary objectives while minimising disruption to gilt markets.

### Belfast Conferences to Deliver £90m Boost Under ICC Plan

ICC Belfast has unveiled a five-year strategy to double large-scale business events by 2030, projecting over £90m in economic impact. CEO Rob McConnell highlighted the

venue's role in attracting global conferences, supporting local hospitality and tourism. The plan also expands live entertainment at Waterfront and Ulster Halls, with sustainability and community engagement at its core, positioning Belfast as a competitive international destination.

### **EU Pressures Starmer Over Youth Mobility in Trade Talks**

Brussels has warned Prime Minister Keir Starmer that progress on a key food safety deal hinges on accepting more temporary EU workers under a youth mobility scheme. The EU insists the agreement, part of a broader Brexit reset, must include reciprocal rights for young people to live, work and study. While Downing Street seeks to cap numbers to manage migration, negotiators are pairing talks to gain leverage.

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## **Parliament**

### **House of Commons**

#### **Culture Media and Sport Committee question Secretary of State**

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Chaired by Dame Caroline Dinenage, questioned Secretary of State Lisa Nandy and Permanent Secretary Susannah Storey on the Department's activity. Major events were mentioned with Nandy highlighting the successful funding of UEFA Euro 2028 and discussed the importance of creative industries, film conferences, and cultural exhibitions. The Committee also referenced the Beyond The Music conference in Manchester, emphasising collaboration with local leaders like Mayor Andy Burnham to boost grassroots events and cultural showcases.

#### **Debate on consumer affairs**

During a debate on consumer affairs, Harriett Baldwin, Conservative MP for West Worcestershire, emphasised the need for transparency and fairness in consumer pricing, warning that capping ticket resale profits could harm both small and large venues, reduce profitability, and increase scams, citing examples from Australia, Ireland, and the Paris Olympics. She stressed that thriving competition and small businesses are vital for consumer protection. Minister for Small Business and Economic Transformation, Blair McDougall, responded by highlighting the importance of balanced regulation, the Competition and Markets Authority's role, and the need for transparency in dynamic pricing to support both innovation and fair access for all venues.

#### **Written Question on Electronic Travel Authorisation**

Liz Jarvis, Liberal Democrat MP for Eastleigh, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

*"Whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of the increase in cost of Electronic Travel Authorisations on her Department's target of 50 million annual visits to the UK by 2030."*

Stephanie Peacock, Minister for Sport, Tourism, and Civil Society, responded:

*"DCMS closely monitors factors that may influence inbound tourism, including the cost of electronic travel authorisations (ETAs). We recognise the importance of balancing secure and efficient border processes with the need to remain competitive as a global tourism destination.*

*"DCMS continues to engage with the Home Office to ensure that any changes to the cost of ETAs are proportionate and informed by robust evidence on their potential impact on our 50m inbound target. Supporting the UK's tourism industry remains a priority, and we will continue to review any challenges to its growth."*

### **Written Question on the hospitality industry**

Victoria Collins, Liberal Democrat MP for Harpenden and Berkhamsted, asked Chancellor of the Exchequer:

*"What assessment she has made of the potential impact of recent tax changes on employment levels in the hospitality sector."*

Dan Tomlinson, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury responded:

*"The Government recognises that the nature and rate of taxes on business is important to the hospitality sector, and the success and competitiveness of the UK. Given the difficult fiscal conditions we inherited, the Government asked all businesses to help contribute to fixing the foundations.*

*"The UK hospitality sector is largely made up of small businesses. The Government has protected the smallest businesses from the impact of the increase to employer National Insurance by increasing the Employment Allowance from £5,000 to £10,500. This means that 865,000 employers will pay no employer NICs at all this year.*

*"A Tax Information and Impact Note (TIIN) was published alongside the introduction of the Bill containing the changes to employer National Insurance contributions (NICs). The TIIN sets out the impact of the policy on the exchequer, the economic impacts of the policy, and the impacts on individuals, businesses, and civil society organisations, as well as an overview of the equality impacts.*

*"The Government is committed to supporting the hospitality sector and local businesses across the UK, and we frequently engage with the sector to understand their concerns."*

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**For any queries regarding this round-up**

please get in touch.

Get in touch



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