

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 20th June



EIA Update

This week, the EIA has continued preparations for the upcoming launch of our MRA campaign, which we hope to roll out in the coming weeks.

Elsewhere, we were pleased to recently hold our regular meeting with civil servants from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We welcome the ongoing dialogue and are encouraged by the constructive discussions taking place around our industry.

Political Update

The week began with a strong focus on foreign affairs, as the Prime Minister attended the G7 summit in Canada. During the summit, he held a separate meeting with President Donald Trump, where they signed a UK–US trade deal, although some details are still to be finalised.

Later in the week, the long-awaited 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy was published. The Strategy aims to provide greater long-term certainty by outlining a comprehensive plan for the country's social, economic, and housing infrastructure. While several headline commitments, such as £39 billion for affordable housing and £14.2 billion for the Sizewell C nuclear power station, were unveiled in last week's Spending Review, further announcements followed this week, including £590 million for the Lower Thames Crossing and the introduction of the National Housing Bank. There is still much for industry to digest, with more to come next week in the form of the Industrial Strategy and the National Security Strategy, both expected as early as Monday.

Elsewhere, Vicky Foxcroft MP resigned from her position as Labour Party Whip ahead of the Government's Welfare Bill, which proposes cuts to disability benefits. More

resignations are rumoured, with over 100 Labour MPs reportedly raising concerns and potentially preparing to rebel.

The Assisted Dying Bill reached its final stage in the House of Commons passing with by 23 votes. The Bill will now move to the House of Lords for further scrutiny. The Bill previously passed with a majority of 55 votes, though several MPs have since indicated they have changed their position. This is a 'conscience vote' or 'free vote', meaning MPs vote individually rather than along party lines, making it a decision for Parliament as a whole.

News

Toolkit provided for Destination North East England

NewcastleGateshead Convention Bureau, in partnership with BeaconHouse Events, has launched a sustainability-focused toolkit for event organisers. Featuring accredited venues, local engagement ideas, and compliance tool designed to support environmentally and socially responsible events across North East England.

Tourist Tax to be introduced in Glasgow

Glasgow councillors have approved a new tourist tax, set to launch on 25 January 2027. Visitors will pay 5% of their nightly accommodation bill, averaging £4.83, across hotels, B&Bs, hostels and self-catering stays. The levy is expected to raise £16 million annually post-costs, funding improvements to the city's infrastructure, environment, and cultural offerings. A visitor levy forum will guide implementation, while hotel operators may retain 1.5% to offset costs. Non-compliant providers face penalties, though a proposed rebate limit was rejected.

Drop in UK businesses attending foreign trade shows

British business presence at global trade shows has decreased since the pandemic, with only a quarter of pre-Covid UK exhibitors attending Drinktec this year. Fashion and textile representation has also dropped from 1,400 to 300 firms. The decline is largely attributed to the 2021 cancellation of the Tradeshow Access Programme, which offered grants to small businesses. Industry leaders argue this has disadvantaged UK firms, especially start-ups, by limiting access to vital international exposure and market opportunities.

Inflation rate holds

Inflation in the UK eased to 3.4% last month, driven by falling air fares and petrol prices falling from 3.5% to April. However, food costs surged, with annual food inflation rising to 4.4% in May, up from 3.4% in April. The sharpest increases were seen in sugar, jam and chocolate, the latter soaring 17.7% due to poor cocoa harvests in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

Interest rates hold

The Bank of England held interest rates at 4.25% in June, diverging from other European central banks including Switzerland, Sweden, and Norway, that opted for cuts. The Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 to maintain rates, with Deputy Governor Dave Ramsden joining two external members in calling for a reduction. The split reflects growing divisions over inflation risks, with concerns about poor productivity, labour market shifts and rising food prices.

HS2 Delayed further

The Government has confirmed that the HS2 high-speed rail line will not open by its 2033 target, with no new date set. Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander cited a "litany of failure" and £37bn in cost overruns since 2012. An interim report by Mark Wild blamed systemic mismanagement, unstable designs, and skills gaps. The project, once expected to cost £33bn and open by 2026, has faced repeated delays and major route cancellations.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Questions: Visas in the EU

Edward Morello, Liberal Democrat MP for West Dorset asked the Minister for Cabinet Office:

"Whether he has held discussions with his EU counterparts on negotiating changes to the 90 in 180-day visa rule to allow British citizens to stay in the EU for longer for (a) leisure, (b) family visits and (c) seasonal work."

Nick Thomas-Symonds, Minister for European Union responded:

"HMG officials and Ministers regularly engage the EU and EU Member State counterparts on a range of issues affecting UK nationals. The UK and the EU allow for visa-free, short-term travel in line with their respective arrangements for third country nationals. The UK allows EU citizens visa-free travel for up to six months; the EU allows for visa-free travel within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in any rolling 180-day period; this is standard for third country nationals travelling visa-free. UK nationals planning to stay longer will need permission from the relevant Member State. The UK Government will continue to listen to and advocate for UK nationals"

Written Question: Venues in Newcastle

Mary Glendon, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

"What steps she is taking to support grassroots music venues in Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend constituency."

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

"The government has announced £2.5m of continued funding for the Arts Council England's (ACE) Supporting Grassroots Music Fund (SGMF) for 2025-26. This enables grassroots music venues, recording studios, promoters and festivals to apply for grants of up to £40k to develop new revenue streams, make repairs and improvements, and enhance the live music experience for fans.

"ACE has made a number of SGMF awards within the Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend constituency, including Women Are Mint, a grassroots festival that takes place in Newcastle, along with Brave Exhibitions Festival, The Tyne Bank Brewery and Cobalt Studios.

"There are also a number of organisations within the ACE national portfolio that engage people in grassroots music activity within this constituency, including Generator, a creative and cultural talent development agency focused on artist development and skills.

"The Government and the live music industry are working together to drive progress on an industry-led levy on tickets for stadium and arena shows, to support grassroots music. We welcome commitments by artists and the wider industry to implement the ticket levy, and steps taken by industry to set up a charitable trust to distribute funds from the levy."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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