

CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

Weekly Monitoring

Friday 20th

September



EIA Update

We attended the Business Tourism Industry Group meeting on Monday where members of the group provided a trading update (members include UKHospitality, UKInbound, British Pub and Beer Association, Cruise Association etc), initial impressions of working with the new government and had sight of plans for new research from Visit Britain and Visit England, and hints at their new strategy. There was a general positiveness around the new Government, but it is early days, with many of the longstanding issues of cost of living, poor weather over the summer, and backlog of travel credits for US visitors were still cited as making trading tough for many. There was much optimism, and the forthcoming EIA and VB Roundtable was cited as positive engagement with the new Minister for Tourism, which is hoped may help promote continued and perhaps further expansion of the [BEGP](#).

We are also looking forward to our meeting with Security Minister Dan Jarvis at the Security Expo next week where will share and promote the EIA's position on Martyn's Law. This is in addition to attending Labour Party Conference this weekend where we'll have the opportunity to interact with key stakeholders and learn more about Labour's plans for the business events industry.

Political Update

Conference season is now fully underway with the Liberal Democrats kicking off proceedings in Brighton over the weekend. Leader Ed Davey didn't disappoint supporters by carrying out a number of stunts including arriving on a jet ski.

The Liberal Democrat Conference came alongside a reorganisation of their Parliamentary frontbench. Daisy Cooper has been appointed Deputy Leader and

Treasury spokesperson, with Sarah Gibson taking Business and Max Wilkinson receiving the Culture, Media and Sport brief.

Reform and Labour Conferences will take place this weekend and into next week, with the Tories following suit next week.

It's been a challenging week for the Prime Minister as he faces criticism from accepting a range of gifts from donors, including clothing and Arsenal box tickets. The news has been met with allegations of hypocrisy and possible conflicts of interest. His top advisor, Sue Grey, has also come under fire after it was declared that she earns more than the PM. Questions are now being raised as to whether she will be able to keep her job amid rising scrutiny.

Parliament is in recess for the Conference season. MPs and Peers will return to Westminster on Monday 7th October.

News

Inflation rate remains unchanged.

New data from the ONS has revealed that UK inflation remained unchanged at a flat level of 2.2% in August. The rate is significantly lower than at the peak of the cost of living crisis in 2022 but is still above the 2% target. The latest figures come as the Bank of England is expected to keep interest rates unchanged at 5% when it meets next Thursday.

Ministers to meet with Unions on Employment Bill.

Trade union leaders will meet with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Business Secretary this weekend for crunch talks on Labour's workers' rights package. Leaks suggest that there are "a number of points of departure" between the Government and the unions and that talks are being held in the hope of averting a "potentially damaging" row at the upcoming party conference.

Further to this, rumours suggest that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Business Secretary do not see eye to eye on giving workers full employment rights from their first day in a new job. Reynolds is reported to be pushing for a probationary period before the rights are awarded.

New Fair Payment Code announced to support small businesses.

A new Fair Payment Code and consultation have been announced by the Department for Business and Trade as part of package to tackle late payments. The new measures have been unveiled to support small businesses and the self-employed by tackling late payments, which is reported to cost small businesses £22,000 a year on average and leads to 50,000 business closures a year.

A consultation will be launched in the coming months and will also consider a range of further policy measures that could help address poor payment practices.

UK Events to be worth \$139.9 Billion by 2032.

According to a new report published by Allied Market Research, titled, "UK Events Industry, the UK events market value is projected to reach \$139.9 billion by 2032. The research provides a current evaluation of the global market landscape, highlighting recent trends, key drivers, and the overall market environment. According to the report, the UK events industry growth is mainly driven by an upsurge in the frequency of corporate meetings, inductions, conferences, exhibitions, music concerts, and sports events, as well as the deployment of best-in-class technology.

Sir Chris Bryant delivers speech at Connected Britain

Minister for Data Protection and Telecoms, Sir Chris Bryant, delivered a speech at Connected Britain 2024 on 12 September 2024. His speech centred around the following offer the basics of infrastructure rollout, retiring obsolete legacy systems and future-proof our infrastructure and connecting everyone (including the digitally excluded).

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question: Regulating ticket sales

Labour MP for Liverpool Wavertree, Paula Barker, asked the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if his Department will bring forward proposals to regulate the de facto monopoly of ticket sales by Ticketmaster.

Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Market, Justin Madders responded:

"Under competition law, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), as the UK's competition authority, is responsible for investigating anti-competitive practices such as an abuse of a dominant position. The Government has ensured that the CMA has significant powers to investigate and act if it finds that businesses are behaving anti-competitively in a market. As an independent authority, the CMA has discretion to investigate competition cases which, according to its prioritisation principles, it considers most appropriate.

"With respect to the secondary ticketing market, the Government has committed to introducing new consumer protections in relation to ticket resales and we will be launching a consultation in the autumn to seek views on potential options."

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

Get in touch



cavendishconsulting.com