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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 21st July



EIA Update

This week the EIA responded to the Westminster Business and Trade Committee's inquiry into Export-led growth. The committee is examining how well equipped the UK is to achieve the ambitious target set by the Government for growth in UK exports by the end of the decade. It will also consider how the UK can take advantage of export opportunities in emerging technologies and critical international supply chains. Our response emphasised the role that the business events industry plays in facilitating export trade across all sectors and the need for Government to recognise and support this.

Political Update

The biggest political story of the week is the three by elections which took place yesterday spread across the country. The Conservatives suffered heavy defeats in Selby and in Somerton but survived in Uxbridge with a reduced majority.

The Conservatives held Uxbridge and South Ruislip, with Steve Tuckwell winning 13,965 votes and Labour's Danny Beales 13,470 after a recount. The Lib Dems gained Somerton and Frome, with Sarah Dyke winning 21,187 votes to Conservatives Faye Purbrick's 10,179 while Labour gained Selby and Ainsty with Keir Mather winning 16,456 votes to Tory Claire Holmes' 12,295.

In other news, defying all forecasts and expectations, inflation for the UK decreased from 8.5% to 7.9%, a 15-month low. However, a survey has found the UK lags in the G7 on productivity due to complacency.

We also found out this week that the King's Speech will take place on 7th November 2023. It is a parliamentary event during which the government will set out its fresh legislative agenda. It will mark the last program of legislation from Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government before a general election.

Parliament is now in recess for the summer and will return on 4th September 2023, for a short while before Party Conference season.

News

Strike Bill becomes law

The controversial Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act has received Royal Assent in Parliament. This Bill is supposed to give the public access to the essential services they need whilst allowing for workers to strike. A public consultation will be launched this summer on the reasonable steps unions must take to comply with a work notice issued by employers under minimum service levels legislation.

Business and Trade Grant Scheme Opens

The Department for Business and Trade has opened the Growing Innovation Capital Grant scheme to enterprises to support their innovation ambitions. The scheme is aimed at SMEs located in South East Midlands.

The funding will be awarded towards the capital costs of projects which will:

- Strengthen business performance and resilience to cost-of-living challenges
- Increase innovation levels
- Enhance sustainability to support the transition to net zero

Millions to benefit from new flexible working measures

The Employment Relations (Flexible Working) Bill has received Royal Assent. This means millions of British workers will have more flexibility over where and when they work and the right to request flexible working from day one of a new

job, with employers required to consider any requests and provide a reason before rejection.

Boost for British businesses as UK and Indonesia pledge to grow trade ties

The UK and Indonesia have held the second Joint Economic and Trade Committee to help grow trade between the two countries – already worth £3.5 billion a year. At the meeting, Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston and Indonesia's Vice Minister of Trade Dr Jerry Sambuaga agreed to establish a working group on the digital economy and develop renewable energy opportunities – two areas of key interest for UK businesses.

Britain barred from hosting Olympic qualifying events

The IOC has blocked London from hosting a prestigious event for new Olympic sports before the Paris 2024 Games next year because of the British government's position on Russian athletes.

London's Olympic Park had been lined up to host the new "Olympic Qualifier Series" for breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and BMX freestyle in June next year.

It is understood that the IOC's executive board has informed the British Olympic Association (BOA) that it will no longer consider London as the host venue and is now exploring other alternatives in Europe to stage the series.

Renewed counter-terrorism strategy to strengthen UK response

The government has launched CONTEST 2023, a refreshed approach to the evolving and enduring threat from terrorism, which will safeguard the public by strengthening the UK's resilience. This includes the implementation of Martyn's Law which is designed to ensure better protection for people in public places including at large event venues.

Parliament

Government

Department for Business and Trade open call for evidence on non-statutory flexible working

The Department for Business and Trade has launched a call for evidence seeking views from individuals and businesses on their experiences of non-statutory flexible working, including how it operates in practice.

The [call for evidence](#) will be open until 11:59pm.

Parliament is now on recess until 4th September 2023.

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

Get in touch



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