

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 24th May**



## **EIA Update**

This week the EIA attended Visit Britain's annual review where they reported an additional £1.26bn of spend as a result of activities – a return of £15 for every £1 spent. What was particularly heartening was reference to Business Events being part of this success, and key to helping drive business tourists and their extended stays. Reference was made to the Business Events Growth fund (supporting various business events, returning a 30 to 1 return), and future ambitions to maintain focus on this and the events sector whatever the new political landscape looks like.

We also met with senior officials at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to discuss both a short term, and long term programme of activity around various trade and consumer shows all over the UK. The Minister for Tourism was keen to activate elements of the [EIA/VB Trade Show Report](#), which showcases via case studies how soft support can deliver value for both the event itself and the UK Government. Centred around this was the desire for a roundtable with officials and Ministers to take a deep dive into what support would have the biggest impact, given the news of the General Election, we will be sure to try and ensure this remains on the agenda of the new Minister for Tourism post-election.

## **Political Update**

This week the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called a General Election for the 4th July 2024, following the ONS announcing a fall in inflation to 2.3%. His announcement followed speculation of a summer election but went against the consensus that an Autumn election was becoming more likely.

Now that the election has been called Parliament will formally dissolve on 30th May, all parliamentary activity will cease during the election period which will last 6 weeks. Currently legislation will either be accelerated, during what is known as the 'wash-up' period, to gain Royal Assent by the 30th May or will fall away. All current inquiries being undertaken by the Lords and the Commons will be suspended.

Parliament will return on 9th July with a new King's Speech and State Opening on 17th July.

Both the Conservative and the Labour Party have begun campaigning and holding rallies ahead of the election. The Conservative's held an election rally on Wednesday night at a key battle ground seat in East London. Speaking on his motives for calling an election Rishi Sunak told the BBC's Today programme that the economy 'had turned a corner'. On the same programme he confirmed that no Rwanda deportation flights would take off before polling day.

Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, held his campaign rally in Kent, following the election being announced he said "together we can stop the chaos, we can turn the page, we can start to rebuild Britain and change our country".

Elsewhere in the news the Infected Blood Inquiry released their report on Monday which found significant and continued failings in dealing with the issue, victims are due to be given compensation.

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## News

### [Campaigner Figen Murray arrived at Downing Street and urged the Prime Minister to tighten security at public venues - Martyn's Law](#)

Campaigner Figen Murray, completed her walk to Downing Street from Manchester in the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd May and urged the Prime Minister to bring Martyn's Law forward. She began campaigning for the Law following the death of her son in 2017 at the Manchester Arena bombing. She had previously met with the Prime Minister 18 months ago when he said he was supportive of the legislation.

She also met with Labour leader Keir Starmer upon her arrival, on their meeting Keir Starmer said: "She's campaigning for Martyn's Law which we must make a reality as soon as possible". Starmer wrote to Sunak promising to work together with him to pass the law following the then scheduled recess.

Despite initially arriving at Downing Street with optimism Ms Murray later [expressed](#) her disappointment and that she felt 'misled' after the election being called threatened Martyn's Law.

On the matter Ms Murray said "During the meeting yesterday we shook hands, he actually agreed, he promised that he will bring it into Parliament before summer recess but he could not guarantee that it's going to be done by the next general election.

### **ONS reports fall in inflation**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May the ONS announced that inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) has fallen to 2.3% compared to 3.2% in March. Falling gas and electricity prices resulted in the lowest level of CPI and CPIH (consumer price index including owner occupiers housing costs) in three years.

The decrease falls shy of the Bank of England's targets for inflation reaching 2%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is due to meet again in June and vote on cutting interest rates.

### **Ofgem announces fall in the energy price cap**

Every three months Ofgem reviews and sets how much an energy supplier can charge for each unit of energy. Following their recent review the price cap will fall from £1690 by £122 to £1568 on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

This will be the lowest rate in two years following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, however compared to pre-pandemic levels bills are still £400 higher. Ofgem will review the price cap again to set it for the following 3 months from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### **CIPD launches report arguing for a flexible skills levy**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May a report was launched by the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development (CIPD) alongside the Youth Futures Foundation calling for reform to the Apprenticeship Levy. Since the levy was introduced the report demonstrated that there had been a drop in the number of apprenticeships starts, 41% fewer apprenticeship starts for under-19s, and 36% fewer among 19-24 year-olds happening in the 2022/23.

The solution suggested in the report called for the introduction of an Apprenticeship Guarantee, to rebalance financial subsidies for younger apprentices, along with a more flexible levy that would enable organisations to invest in workforce development and modular training.

### **Licensed drug testing will continue at Music Festival this Summer**

The Home Office announced that confiscated and surrendered drugs will continue to be tested this year to identify toxic substances in circulation and prevent drug related overdoses.

Licenses have been distributed to allow drug testing organisations to operate at leading UK festivals. Public alerts can then be issued to festival goers if particularly potent drugs are detected to try and protect the public from drug related health issues.

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## Parliament

### House of Parliament

#### Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill Debate

On Tuesday 21st May the House of Commons debated a Lords Amendment to the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill. The Amendment would have seen additional regulatory requirements on resale sites requiring proof of the ticket from the reseller before listing the ticket.

Chris Bryant, Shadow Minister for Creative Industries and Digital supported the amendment. He spoke about the amount of evidence that had been given over the years by members which pointed to the fact that the secondary ticket market does not work. He argued that amendment was a good compromise and would cut down on the levels of scamming currently present in the UK. Mr Bryant also said that Labour would fix the secondary sales market.

The Conservatives in the debate disagreed with the amendment and said it would add an unnecessary level of regulation to resale sites.

At the end of the debate the amendment was prevented via a divided vote in which 217 voted for the amendment and 268 voted against.

**For any queries regarding this round-up  
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