

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 26th
September



EIA Update

This week, we extended our congratulations to Sir Chris Bryant on his appointment as Minister for Trade at the Department for Business and Trade, and to Ian Murray on his new role as Minister for Creative Industries, Media, and Arts. We look forward to engaging with all newly appointed Ministers to advance our priorities.

Martin Rhodes, Labour MP for Glasgow North and member of the Events APPG, published an opinion piece in Labour Home supporting our call for a Mutual Recognition Agreement for the business events industry. The article can be found [here](#). Please do feel free to share this on your own business LinkedIn accounts supporting his call.

We're excited to host our Panel Event at next week's Labour Party Conference, where we'll be discussing the positive contribution the business events industry makes to the UK with politicians and industry leaders.

Political Update

It has been a relatively quiet week in politics as Parliament remains in conference recess. Both the Reform UK and Liberal Democrat conferences have taken place, with the Labour Party Conference scheduled from 27 September to 1 October.

This year's Labour Conference will feature an added dimension, as hustings for the Deputy Leader contest take place during the event. Ballots open on 8 October, with the winner set to be announced on 25 October.

Ahead of the conference, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham announced that he would be interested in challenging Prime Minister Keir Starmer for Leadership. However,

he emphasised that any decision rests with Westminster, stating he is not interested in a “personality contest” and remains committed to supporting the party. While speculation continues, Burnham, who would need to become an MP to run, has outlined policy ideas and criticised the Government’s current approach, prompting mixed reactions from Labour colleagues.

Elsewhere, Starmer announced a new digital ID scheme, which will become mandatory for Right to Work checks by the end of the current Parliament. The ID will be free and designed to simplify access to services such as driving licences, childcare, and welfare, while strengthening border security. The proposal has received mixed feedback, with concerns raised over civil liberties and its disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland.

Finally, Jeremy Corbyn has apologised for confusion surrounding the launch of his new party, 'Your Party', following a public dispute with Zarah Sultana over an unauthorised membership portal and allegations of exclusion. Corbyn confirmed the official membership scheme is now live, with secure data and payments, and that the party’s founding conference will go ahead in Liverpool this November.

News

Gatwick Northern Runway Gets Green Light from Government

The Secretary of State for Transport has granted development consent for Gatwick Airport’s Northern Runway project, enabling dual runway operations and expanding capacity to 80 million passengers annually. The scheme includes upgrades to taxiways, terminals, highways, and rivers, alongside temporary construction and mitigation works.

Edinburgh Hosts Government Roadshow to Boost Scottish Exports

The Government’s “Made in the UK, Sold to the World” roadshow arrived in Edinburgh, spotlighting Scotland’s thriving financial, professional, and business services sector. Minister Blair McDougall urged small firms to seize export opportunities, highlighting tailored support through UK Export Finance and the Business Growth Service. With workshops, international buyers, and Export Champions, the event aimed to drive growth, create high-wage jobs, and strengthen Scotland’s global trade presence.

Biometric Checks for EU Travel Face Nine-Month Rollout

New biometric registration kiosks are set to open across the UK from 12 October, but full enforcement of the EU’s Entry-Exit System (EES) won’t be in place until April 2026, with a further 90-day grace period to ease potential disruption. The system, requiring non-EU travellers to submit fingerprints and facial scans, has prompted major infrastructure investments at Eurotunnel, Eurostar, and the Port of Dover, where phased implementation aims to prevent congestion and confusion. Despite concerns over delays and inconsistent kiosk questioning, operators remain confident that the staggered rollout will allow passengers to adjust ahead of peak travel periods.

Changes to UK visa requirements

The Government is considering reducing or abolishing “top global talent” visa fees and launching a targeted campaign to attract skilled workers, following President Trump’s announcement of a \$100,000 H-1B visa fee in the US. Chancellor Rachel Reeves aims to double high-skilled foreign worker visas to 18,000 annually, positioning Britain as a welcoming destination for global talent.

UK to Face Highest Inflation in G7, OECD Warns

The UK is forecast to experience the highest inflation among G7 nations in 2025, with consumer prices rising by 3.5%, driven by higher payroll taxes, minimum wage increases, and regulated price hikes. Despite modest growth projections, inflation remains well above the Bank of England’s 2% target, prompting concerns ahead of Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ November Budget. The OECD expects interest rates to fall next year, but warns that tax rises, trade costs, and policy uncertainty could dampen demand and prolong inflationary pressures.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question VAT on the Hospitality Industry

Lord Bailey of Paddington, Conservative, asked His Majesty's Government:

"Whether they plan to reduce value added tax for hospitality and night-time venues to boost recovery, encourage investment and support long-term growth."

Lord Livermore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, responded:

"The Government recognises the significant contribution made by hospitality businesses to economic growth and social life in the UK."

"VAT is the UK's third largest tax, forecast to raise £180 billion in 2025/26. Tax breaks reduce the revenue available for vital public services and must represent value for money for the taxpayer."

"HMRC estimate that the cost of a 5 per cent reduced rate for accommodation, hospitality and tourist attractions would be around £13 billion this financial year. If the scope were also to include alcoholic beverages, the cost would be approximately £3 billion greater."

"The Government keeps all taxes under review, and the Chancellor makes decisions on tax changes at the Budget, in the context of the overall public finances."

Written Question on railway disputes

Richard Holden, Conservative MP for Basildon and Billericay, asked the Secretary of State for Transport:

"What discussions her Department has had with train operating companies on industrial disputes relating to the scanning of electronic tickets."

Keir Mather, Minister for Transport, responded:

"The train operating companies are responsible for managing industrial relations with their workforces and trade unions. The Department engages regularly with all of its contracted train operating companies regarding their approach to industrial disputes, including regarding ticket scanning."

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

Get in touch



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