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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 27th

September



EIA Update

The EIA were pleased to attend the Labour Party Conference earlier this week where we were able to engage with stakeholders whilst attending one of the two most important political conferences of the year.

We were also pleased to meet with Security Minister Dan Jarvis at the Security Expo next week where we shared the EIA's position on Martyn's Law and Protect Duty.

Political Update

The main political focus of this week has been the Labour Party Conference 2024. This marked the Party's first conference in Government in 15 years. Key takeaways included Prime Minister Keir Starmer's emphasis on economic stability, national security, social justice and 'national renewal'. Whilst Chancellor Rachel Reeves highlighted the need for fiscal responsibility while promising no return to austerity and said that 'there is light at the end of the tunnel'.

Deputy Leader Angela Rayner used her keynote speech to emphasise the Government's commitment to enhancing workers' rights. She announced that she would introduce an Employment Rights Bill next month, which aims to make work more secure and ensure that rights are enforced. Rayner also highlighted plans to bring workers and employers together to negotiate pay and conditions in every sector, restoring "common decency" to the workplace.

The Prime Minister faced increasing pressure across the conference to resolve internal politics with Sue Gray and over 'freebies' that had been accepted by himself and other Ministers. Other key updates from Labour Conference of relevance to the EIA can be found in our below summaries.

The Conservative Party Conference is due to start on Sunday 29th September and will include speeches from the leadership candidates and Shadow Cabinet.

News

[Lisa Nandy, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Key Note speech at Labour conference.](#)

At Labour Party Conference, Lisa Nandy, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport gave her keynote speech focusing on revitalising the UK's cultural and creative sectors. The Government pledged to end the neglect of arts, music, and sports, with plans to reintroduce enrichment funding in schools and support for libraries, theatres, and youth workers. She also highlighted the importance of Marty'n's Law.

She committed to boosting tourism, film, and gaming industries, particularly in cities like Sunderland, Blackpool, Birmingham, and Dundee. She emphasised the need to support young people and civil society organisations, recognising their vital role in community development, and stated that the Government aims to foster a more inclusive and culturally rich nation, where every individual's contribution is valued.

[Sir Chris Bryant, Culture Minister speech at Labour conference](#)

At the Labour Party Conference, Culture Minister Sir Chris Bryant reaffirmed Labour's commitment to rescuing the arts, addressing the decline in arts education. He said that the new Government would salvage the arts and creative industries from a 'black hole'. Bryant highlighted the struggles of theatres and the drastic fall in arts education uptake. He highlighted the important contribution that the creative industries makes to the UK economy of £125 billion annually, underscoring their significant value.

[New Growth and Skills Levy announced](#)

The Prime Minister and Education Secretary Bridge Phillipson announced a new Growth and Skills Levy which will replace the existing apprenticeship levy. This includes new foundation apprenticeships which offer young people career routes in critical sectors. The Levy will fund shorter apprenticeships, providing flexibility, however these must run for at least 12 months.

The announcement has come at the same time as the first report from [Skills England](#) which has provided an initial assessment of the nation's working skills, future skills needs and gaps that employers are struggling to fill.

[Labour Party Fringe Event 'Delivering Growth through Skills'](#)

At Labour Party Conference, a fringe event was held called "Delivering Growth through Skills' featured speakers included Baroness Jacqui Smith (Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education) and Lord Blunkett.

The panel emphasised the importance of fixing the skills system for economic growth and the green transition. Baroness Smith highlighted Skills England's role in providing long-term coherence which would link to the Government's industrial strategy. She stressed the need for a localised approach to address diverse regional skill

requirements and called for greater industry engagement. Lord Blunkett underscored the necessity of digital optimisation and modular training schemes for SMEs, noting the complexities smaller businesses face. He also recommended strategies to support SMEs in adopting apprenticeships.

The panel agreed that a coordinated approach across Government is essential to address the evolving skills landscape, ensuring that the UK workforce is equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities.

Avanti West Coast to retain Government contract

Following the announced plans to nationalise the British railways as train operators contracts come up for renewal, it was rumoured that Avanti West Coast, responsible for most connections from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool may be stripped of their contract early.

The legal advice sort by the Department for Transport on the issue has apparently found that the operator is not in breach of its performance obligations. The contract is one of the last contracts up for renewal so it could be a while before Avanti is brought under UK control despite Transport Secretary Louise Haigh previously stating it would be brought under public control as soon as possible.

Decline in people coming to the UK on Youth Mobility visas

It has been reported that, in 2023, only 23,000 people came to the UK under the British youth mobility scheme (YMS), a small fraction of the 685,000 overall net migration. The YMS allows people from 12 countries to work in the UK for up to three years.

Post-Brexit, no EU exchange programme exists and EU countries are proposing a new mobility scheme with the UK. The current British scheme is open to 12 non-affiliated countries, while Australia and Canada have larger, similar programmes. EU diplomats are optimistic about reaching a new agreement with the UK.

International business summit coming to London in 2025

The Concordia Europe Summit will be held in London for the first time in late spring 2025. Announced at the Concordia Annual Summit in New York, attended by Mayor Sadiq Khan, the event will bring together global leaders to discuss investment and partnership opportunities. The summit aims to foster collaboration and address critical issues through its Concilium format.

Parliament

House of Commons

Parliament is currently in recess and will return 7th October

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

Get in touch

in X @

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