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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 31st May



EIA Update

The EIA has been progressing our General Election strategy and preparing for a new Government and Parliament following the election 4th July.

This include progressing our engagement with Shadow Security Minister Dan Jarvis.

Political Update

Major political parties are currently in full campaign mode with just five weeks until the General Election

The first general election debate scheduled to take place on ITV on the 4th June with Party leaders Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer going head-to-head.

Political parties have started to drop policy announcements with the Conservatives suggesting National Service, which would either be military or community based, as well as a triple-lock plus on pensions.

The Labour Party has reiterated their position on cracking down on antisocial behaviour and getting 13,000 more police and PCSOs on the beat and committed to not increasing VAT. This latter policy is echoed by the Lib Dems and the Conservatives.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party published a letter of endorsement for Labour's economic plans from 121 founders, CEOs and former leaders across the business spectrum as it looks to cement its position as the Party of Business ahead of polling day.

News

[Tories pledge 100,000 new apprenticeships](#)

Sunak has pledged to create 100,000 new high-skilled apprenticeships by the end of the next parliament using funding from winding down and reallocating 'underperforming' or 'rip-off' degrees. These degrees would be identified based on drop out rates, job progression, and future earnings potential.

VAT will not be increased after the General Election

Both Rachel Reeves and Jeremy Hunt have ruled out raising VAT if they win the General Election. This comes after Jeremy Hunt wrote in the Telegraph challenging Labour to make the same pledge as the Conservatives not to raise the Tax. Rachel Reeves responded saying that claims she planned to raise the tax were 'nonsense' and that the planned tax raises would only be those already announced such as charging VAT on private school fees.

The announcement has since prompted Lib Dem Munira Wilson to also state her party would not look to raise VAT, income tax or national insurance. This has created a tax consensus amongst the leading political parties.

Conservative Party criticise the Labour Party's Employment Rights plan

The Conservative Party have accused Angela Rayner's plans for reforming employment rights of potentially causing a 'French style union laws', insinuating that if her reforms go ahead **then more strikes** would occur across UK workplaces. The Conservative party also costed the plan and suggested it would cost £1,250 per employee per year, the Labour Party retaliated to this claim by saying that the Conservatives costed a policy that was not Labour's.

Public Accounts Committee said that the Government did not put the needs of passengers or taxpayers first regarding rail reform

Before Parliament dissolved on Thursday 30th May the Public Accounts Committee published their report which scrutinised the Government's rail reform. The report found that the Government has made very little progress in executing their plans for rail reform, the report highlighted that the Department for Transport had yet to establish Great British Railways (GBR). GBR was meant to be established in March 2024 and was intended to act as a 'guiding mind' for the entire rail system. The report emphasised that most reforms will now have to wait until the next parliament to be implemented.

Furthermore, the report found that a consistent poor performance across the rail network in 2022-23 which saw 13.7% of trains delayed and 3.8% cancelled, demonstrated that the Government was not putting the needs of customers and taxpayers first.

James Cleverly said he was 'particularly sorry' that Martyn's Law was not passed before the General Election

Following Martyn's Law campaigner Figen Murray's expressing her disappointment that the Prime Minister misled her about Martyn's Law being passed, the Home Secretary James Cleverly was asked if he wanted to apologise. He said he was sorry but reassured Ms Murray that if the Conservative's re-entered Government they would prioritise the law. Following accusations that he had misled Ms Murray Sunak said that his exact words were that it would be passed before summer recess which is something he remains committed to completing.

Government and Parliament

Government and Parliament have been dissolved ahead of the upcoming General Election on Thursday 4th July.

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

Get in touch

in X @

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