

CAVENDISH

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**Weekly
Monitoring
Friday 4th
April**



EIA Update

We were delighted to attend The Business of Events Global Policy Forum on Tuesday. Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Arts and Tourism, opened the event, emphasising the importance of the events industry to the wider creative industries. Later, Dame Caroline Dinenage, Chair of the Culture, Media, and Sport Select Committee, announced that business events would be subject to a special inquiry by her committee to better understand the sector.

Earlier this year, the EIA met with Dame Caroline to explain the benefits and challenges faced by the sector. During our meeting, she suggested we submit evidence to the State of Play inquiry, calling for a separate inquiry into business events. We are delighted that the business events industry has been chosen for this inquiry and look forward to working with Dame Caroline and her committee.

Additionally, we are pleased to have organised a meeting next month with Jack Rankin, Officer on the Events APPG. We look forward to discussing our industry with him in further detail.

Political Update

Focus again this week has predominantly been on foreign affairs with President Trump announcing a range of US tariffs on imports from most major economies. For the UK Trump introduced 10% "reciprocal" tariffs on all UK imports to the US - amounting to \$60 billion annually - coming into force on Saturday 5th April at 5:01am UK time. Cavendish

have prepared a note on the potential impact of the tariffs on the UK which can be accessed [here](#).

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds has subsequently launched an inquiry into possible retaliation tariffs to the US and the impact this may have on UK businesses.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill received Royal Assent on 3rd April. Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, said:

"Today is a landmark moment for our security as my government delivers on its promise to introduce Martyn's Law and better protect the public from terrorism.

"Figen's courage and determination in the face of such unimaginable loss is truly humbling and it is thanks to her campaigning that Martyn's Law means her son's legacy will live on forever."

The House of Lords has now risen for Easter Recess is set to return on 22nd April. The House of Commons rises for Recess from 8th April and returns on 22nd April.

News

SIA reacts to Martyn's Law receiving Royal Assent

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has said they welcome the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, known as Martyn's Law, receiving Royal Assent.

The SIA, now the regulator for Martyn's Law, will work with the Home Office to ensure compliance. They now expect there to be a 24-month period before the legislation commences to allow sufficient time for preparation and compliance for those the law affects and to set up the regulator.

First State of Play inquiry to be Live Comedy

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee will open its first State of Play inquiry with a focus on live comedy. This session, proposed by the Live Comedy Association (LCA), will explore the economic, cultural, and social impact of live performances in the UK, alongside the challenges faced by the sector. The session will be held after Easter. Future sessions will cover Business Events, deaf athletes, play facilities, and EU touring.

Pembrokeshire Council say no to tourist tax

Pembrokeshire Council will not introduce a tourism tax until at least May 2027, providing certainty for the industry amidst recent tax changes. The proposed levy of £1.25 per night could be implemented by future councils, with a lower rate of 75p for hostels and campsites. Deputy leader Paul Miller supports the option but believes now is not the right time. Conservative Senedd member Paul Davies welcomed the decision, emphasising the importance of the tourism sector.

Business and Trade Committee Report on EU-UK Trade

The Business and Trade Committee (BTC) is releasing a draft 'Green Paper'. This document outlines twenty proposals for resetting UK-EU relations for mutual benefit and comes ahead of the May summit between the UK and EU.

The BTC's report, developed after extensive consultations, aims to fill the gap left by the Government's refusal to publish its own Green Paper.

The proposals include a new EU-UK security pact, enhanced energy cooperation, support for the UK goods sector, and regulatory alignment in key areas. The BTC seeks feedback from businesses, trade unions, and consumer groups before finalising the report for Parliament. Chair Liam Byrne emphasises the need for a bold, pragmatic approach to strengthen UK-EU ties and boost economic growth.

If you are interested you can complete the survey [here](#).

Economic Estimates in the DCMS sector

The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has issued the estimated annual gross pay and employment for DCMS sectors in 2023 to 2024.

As of April 2024, median annual earnings in DCMS sectors were £32,000, 1.3% higher than the UK average of £31,602. Earnings growth in these sectors was 6.1%, slightly below the UK's 7.1%. Since 2019, earnings in DCMS sectors have risen by 25.0%, compared to the UK's 26.7%. Creative industries (£42,399) and the cultural sector (£32,432) had higher median earnings than the UK average, while civil society (£29,434), gambling (£25,435), and sport (£21,802) sectors had lower earnings.

The gender pay gap in DCMS sectors was 18.3%, with women earning £0.80 for every £1.00 earned by men, larger than the UK's 13.1%. This gap has narrowed since last year.

DCMS sectors accounted for 4.0 million jobs, 11.9% of UK jobs, with job growth outpacing the UK overall since 2019. London had 24.4% of these jobs, higher than the UK average of 16.0%.

Luton Airport expansion plan approved

The Government has approved expansion plans for London Luton Airport, aiming to double annual passenger numbers to 32 million by 2043. Despite environmental concerns, the decision includes a new terminal and increased capacity. Luton Rising, the airport's owner, highlights significant economic and employment benefits, including up to 11,000 new jobs. Environmental campaigners oppose the expansion due to climate change concerns. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer supports the decision, emphasising its importance for national infrastructure and growth.

Scheme to grow international rail travel from the UK

London St Pancras Highspeed (LSPH) announced a scheme to reduce charges for operators planning new Cross-Channel train routes, aiming to grow international rail travel from the UK. The initiative, effective from May, offers significant financial incentives, particularly for new destinations and services. LSPH hopes to attract more operators and increase train paths usage, currently at 50%. The scheme could cut charges by up to 50% in the first year, promoting rail as a sustainable travel option to Europe.

Parliament

House of Commons

Topical Question: Visit Britain Budget

During Topical question Saqib Bhatti, Shadow Minister for Culture Media and Sport said:

"As has been said, tourism is a huge contributor to the UK economy, and I was delighted to take part in English Tourism Week, as many Members will have done. The Government have committed to 50 million visits by 2030, and Conservative Members welcome that ambition. I was surprised to hear from the tourism sector that there is great concern about a purported cut to the VisitBritain budget. Will the Minister categorically tell the House whether there will be a cut to the VisitBritain budget, and if so, will he transparently tell the House how much that budget will be cut by?"

Sir Chris Bryant, Tourism Minister responded:

"I think the hon. Gentleman is talking about the GREAT campaign budget, and it is certainly true that finances have been tough. We are looking at precisely what money we may be able to source into that fund for the next year. I am very serious about wanting to develop a UK-wide visitor economy strategy. I think it might be valuable if the hon. Gentleman and I sat down at some point and he gave me some of the ideas that are rocking around in his brain, and we will see whether any of those can be incorporated into our plan."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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