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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 5th
December



EIA Update

The EIA is delighted that, amongst other industry stakeholders, we have been invited to provide oral evidence next week to the Culture, Media, and Sport Select Committee inquiry into Major Events. We look forward to sharing the opportunities that our sector could provide for Government as well as explaining some of the challenges that we face.

This week, we also submitted evidence to the Business and Trade Select Committee's call for priorities for 2026, reiterating the need for a National Events Plan to align the Industrial Strategy with business events.

Political Update

Politics this week centred on Budget fallout, with Reform and Conservative figures accusing Chancellor Rachel Reeves of misleading Parliament by overstating fiscal challenges despite stronger tax receipts. Reeves rejected the claims and will not face an ethics probe, while the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, defended her position.

Following the inadvertent early release of its Budget analysis the Office for Budget Responsibility Chairman, Richard Hughes, has resigned.

Elsewhere, it was announced that the elections for new mayors in Greater Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk, Hampshire & the Solent, and Sussex & Brighton have been postponed until May 2028, originally expected in May 2026, delaying regional devolution plans. The Government says extra time is needed for local authority reorganisation, but opposition parties accuse Labour of undermining democracy and avoiding accountability.

News

UK and Germany New Cultural and Sport Initiative

Britain and Germany have launched new cultural and sporting initiatives during President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's State Visit. Plans include a UK-Germany Creative Industries Prize, a £100,000 grassroots sports exchange, and a Youth Summit in Berlin next March. Both nations will also host cross-border volunteering celebrations in July 2026 to celebrate the Kensington Treaty. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said the agreements will strengthen ties and create lasting opportunities for young people, innovation, and community engagement.

Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy launched by DCMs for 2026 - 2031

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has unveiled its Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for 2026–2031, in collaboration with 41 arm's length bodies. Building on lessons from major events such as the Commonwealth Games, the strategy highlights £900 million secured for grassroots and major events and £125 million invested in facilities. It supports three core objectives: driving growth and good jobs nationwide, enriching lives with choices and opportunities, and fostering social cohesion through an inclusive national story. Priorities include strengthening appraisal links, improving monitoring during delivery, and boosting capability via the Evaluation Academy to ensure accountability for high-profile projects like Euro 2028 and the National Lottery Licence Competition.

UK Wide Bid to Host FIFA Women's World Cup 2035

The UK has submitted a UK-wide joint bid to host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2035™, supported by all four Home Nations Football Associations and their respective Governments. The proposal includes host cities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, aiming to deliver nationwide economic and social benefits. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said the bid reflects the UK's commitment to women's sport, building on major investment in grassroots facilities and school sport.

ISAC Partners with University of Manchester to Boost UK Innovation

The Industrial Strategy Advisory Council (ISAC) has announced a landmark partnership with the University of Manchester to accelerate UK innovation and growth. ISAC will be headquartered in Manchester, giving it direct access to world-class research and local expertise. The collaboration, facilitated by Unit M, aims to strengthen evidence-based recommendations for the Government's Industrial Strategy and foster inclusive growth. This first-of-its-kind partnership will unite academia, business and industry to monitor key sectors and deliver strategies for driving economic development nationwide.

ESSA Survey Reveals Ongoing Pressures in UK Events Industry

The Event Supplier and Services Association (ESSA) has released its first Stronger Together survey, revealing stark contrasts in the UK events industry as the Autumn Budget lands. While 46% of businesses expect revenue growth in 2025, 29% forecast

decline, with recruitment challenges and rising costs adding pressure. Nearly nine in ten cite work-life balance as the biggest retention issue, and sustainability efforts remain limited. ESSA warns targeted budget measures overlook the sector, despite calls for greater Government recognition.

Australia Next to Showcase Business Events in Sydney 2027

Australia Next, Tourism Australia's flagship business events showcase, will return to Sydney in December 2027 after three consecutive editions in Adelaide, Cairns and Melbourne. BESydney CEO Amanda Lampe highlighted Sydney's new international airport and world-class infrastructure as major advantages. Delivered by Tourism Australia and BESydney, the event will give international planners first-hand access to Australia's growing business events offering, from iconic landmarks to cutting-edge venues.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question on Business Rates

Nadia Whittome, Labour MP for Nottingham East, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"What assessment she has made of the potential impact of the proposed higher business rates multiplier for properties above £500,000 on cultural venues."

Dan Tomlinson, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury responded:

"The Government is delivering a long overdue reform to rebalance the business rates system and support the high street, as promised in our manifesto."

"The Government is doing this by introducing new permanently lower tax rates for eligible retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) properties, including cultural venues with rateable values below £500,000. These new tax rates are worth nearly £900 million per year and will benefit over 750,000 properties."

"These new tax rates must be sustainably funded and so the Government is also introducing a higher rate on properties with rateable values of £500,000 and above. This represents around only 1 per cent of properties."

Written Question on the Hospitality Industry and Employment

Alicia Kearns, Conservative MP for Rutland and Stamford asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"Whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact on employment and job creation in the hospitality sector of extending employer National Insurance contribution"

relief to (a) employees aged under 25 and (b) individuals returning to work from welfare."

Dan Tomlinson, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury responded:

"The government is committed to tackling the rise in youth unemployment and inactivity, which has been growing since the last Parliament. That is why we are delivering a Youth Guarantee to ensure that every young person can access the support they need to earn or learn. This includes a new Jobs Guarantee, which will provide a six-month paid work placement for every eligible 18- to 21-year-old who has been on Universal Credit and looking for work for 18 months – helping young people take that crucial first step into sustained employment. Details on the wider Youth Guarantee will be announced shortly.

"The government is increasing funding for employment support to more than £3.75 billion per year by 2028-29, helping people to access the skills they need to progress, tackling inactivity and ensuring more people are in better jobs.

"There are a wide range of factors to take into consideration when introducing a tax relief. These include how effective the relief would be at achieving the policy intent, how targeted support would be, whether it adds complexity to the tax system, and the cost.

"The Government keeps all taxes under review as part of the policy making process. The Chancellor will announce any changes to the tax system at fiscal events in the usual way."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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