

# CAVENDISH

Insight. Influence. Creativity.

**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 6th**

**December**



## **EIA Update**

The EIA were due to attend the Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy's Creative Industries Growth Summit this week, this has now been postponed until January. We look forward to attending the summit in the new year.

This week, the EIA were pleased to secure a meeting with Bayo Alaba MP who is a member of the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee and previously ran an events company. This is on top of our meeting with Jo Platt MP in a couple of weeks and our meeting with the Chair of the Committee Dame Caroline Dinenage in the new year.

Dame Caroline Dinenage, recently put out a video on LinkedIn explaining the work of the Culture Media and Sport Committee. If you would like to watch it the link is [here](#).

Last week the EIA went out to AEO and AEV members assessing the impact of Brexit to build on the work of a survey that ESSA members have already filled out. If you haven't yet and wish to respond please find a link to the [survey here](#).

## **Political Update**

This week, Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivered a 'Plan for Change' speech setting out six 'milestones' for the public to measure the Government against. The targets aim to renew public trust and drive national progress. These six missions follow the six 'first steps' he set out in May and are a way to measure the 'five missions'. More on his speech can be found below.

Fall out from the former Transport Secretary Louise Haigh's resignation continued as Keir Starmer refused to disclose further details during this weeks PMQs when

questioned by Kemi Badenoch, Leader of the Conservative Party. He defended her resignation as appropriate when new information surfaced.

Ireland's General Election saw Fianna Fáil' emerge as the largest party. Coalition talks will now start to take place, potentially taking weeks, with the Dáil meeting on 18 December but no immediate agreement expected. Fianna Fáil's Micheál Martin is likely to become taoiseach again. The current Government will continue in a caretaker role.

Scotland's draft budget for 2025-26, presented by Finance Secretary Shona Robison, aims to scrap the two-child benefit cap, lifting 15,000 children out of poverty. It includes a record £21 billion investment in the NHS and significant funding for housing, education, and climate initiatives.

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## News

### DCMS Business Demographic

The Culture Media and Sport sectors saw a slight increase in businesses in March 2024, totalling 590,695, which is 21.7% of all UK registered businesses. This represents a 1.0% rise from March 2023, while the overall number of UK businesses remained stable. Notably, 87.4% of DCMS businesses were micro-sized (0 to 9 employees), slightly less than the UK average of 89.1%. Additionally, 72.4% had a turnover of less than £250,000, higher than the 66.1% for all UK businesses. London hosted 24.1% of these business sites, compared to 18.6% across the UK.

### Six Milestones Speech

Keir Starmer launched six "Milestones for Mission-Led Government," evolving from the five missions. His speech described the milestones as "doubling down" on national missions, providing "stabilising certainty of the clear destination." He faced media criticism for lacking targets on immigration. Starmer acknowledged the political risk of measurable milestones and criticised "political cynicism" in setting easy targets.

The milestones identified by the Government are:

1. Raising living standards in every part of the United Kingdom, so working people have more money in their pocket as we aim to deliver the highest sustained growth in the G7.
2. Building 1.5 million homes in England and fast-tracking planning decisions on at least 150 major economic infrastructure projects - more than in the last 14 years combined.
3. Ending hospital backlogs to meet the NHS standard of 92% of patients in England waiting no longer than 18 weeks for elective treatment.
4. Putting police back on the beat with a named officer for every neighbourhood, and 13,000 additional officers, PCSOs and special constables in neighbourhood roles in England and Wales.

5. Giving children the best start in life, with a record 75% of five-year-olds in England ready to learn when they start school.
6. Securing home-grown energy, protecting billpayers, and putting us on track to at least 95% Clean Power by 2030, while accelerating the UK to Net Zero

The PM called for a dynamic, innovative civil service and emphasised partnerships with businesses and charities to achieve these goals.

Cavendish have produced a full briefing note [here](#).

### **Sir Chris Bryant on the travel industry**

Tourism Minister Chris Bryant outlined his plans during an interview with TTG at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London. He emphasised reopening EU employment opportunities for young UK citizens and revamping the Tourism Industry Council to include outbound sector input. Bryant addressed overtourism and the need for better infrastructure, such as clearer signage at Gatwick. He also stressed the importance of improving the end-to-end visitor experience and called for the refurbishment of iconic red phone boxes, noting their significance for influencers. Bryant's initiatives aim to enhance both inbound and outbound tourism while ensuring a balanced and sustainable approach.

### **Interest rates to fall slowly according to a report by OECD**

UK interest rates will fall more slowly than expected due to significant spending and borrowing plans in the budget, according to the OECD. Inflation is predicted to surpass previous forecasts, with GDP growth upgraded to 1.7% next year. Interest rates, currently at 4.75%, are expected to drop to 3.5% by early 2026. The OECD highlighted the resilience of the global economy but noted high risks and uncertainties. The government aims to ensure sustainable growth.

### **Speech by the Minister for Gambling**

At the GambleAware Annual Conference, Baroness Twycross outlined the Government's initiatives to combat gambling harms. Appointed as the Gambling Minister in July, she emphasised the importance of balancing the enjoyment of gambling with robust protections for the vulnerable. Key measures include a statutory levy and stake limits for online slots, aiming to raise significant funds for research and treatment. Twycross highlighted the need for safer game design, improved customer protections, and responsible advertising. She called for industry collaboration to ensure a safer gambling environment, stressing that growth should not compromise player safety. The speech underscored a commitment to evidence-based reforms and industry cooperation.

### **BBC financial stability plan set out by the Culture Secretary**

The Culture Secretary, Lisa Nandy, announced plans to ensure the BBC's financial sustainability. The Government will review funding options through a Charter Review, maintaining the licence fee until 2027. The fee will rise with inflation, reaching £174.50

in 2025. An expanded Simple Payment Plan will help more households manage payments. Additionally, £32.6 million will be allocated to the BBC World Service. The review aims to secure the BBC's future amidst changing media landscapes.

### **Nationalising the Railways**

Labour will renationalise three rail operators next year, but fares will still rise by 4.6% in March. Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander acknowledged the importance of affordability but stressed the need for reliable services. South Western Railway, C2C, and Greater Anglia will come into public ownership in 2025. The government plans to improve reliability and save £150m annually through public ownership. Critics argue that renationalisation alone won't lower fares without fresh investment. The move is part of Labour's broader strategy to take rail services back into public ownership.

### **e-Visas**

With most biometric residence permits expiring on 31 December 2024, the Home Office urges remaining visa holders to switch. Over 3 million people have switched from physical immigration documents to eVisas, enhancing security and efficiency. Airlines will accept expired documents until 31 March 2025. Minister Seema Malhotra emphasised the convenience and security of eVisas, encouraging timely transitions.

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## **Parliament**

House of Commons

### **Written Question on Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**

Claire Hanna, asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill on (a) charities, (b) community groups and (c) voluntary organisations that organise event?

Dan Jarvis, Security Minister responded:

*"The Government is extremely mindful of the many community, voluntary-run and charity events that occur across the UK.*

*"The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill has been designed to achieve public protection outcomes whilst avoiding undue burden on businesses and other organisations.*

*"Many organisations will have procedures and measures in place for fire safety and health and safety legislation. This Bill's proposals are based on similar concepts, following similar systems and processes. The 'reasonably practicable' standard of requirements in both tiers is designed to allow procedures and measures to be tailored to the specific circumstances of a premises or event. This will enable those responsible to consider what is within their control and the resources they have available to them, as well as what is suitable and appropriate for their premises or event.*

*"Dedicated guidance and support will be provided for those in scope of the Bill, to ensure that they have the required information on what to do and how best to do it. The guidance will be easy to follow, needing no particular expertise."*

### Written question on Nightclubs and Music Venues

Culture, Media and Sport Committee Chair Dame Caroline Dinenage, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will (a) recognise and (b) support (i) nightclubs and (ii) venues as cultural institutions.

Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Tourism, responded

*"The Government is working closely with the live music industry to support an economically sustainable music sector.*

*"The Government response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's report on grassroots music venues, published 14 November, sets out our commitment to working with the sector to support the sustainability of the entire music ecosystem. Cultural venues provide enjoyment to many thousands of people as the opportunity to hear live music up close is an essential part of our cultural life.*

*"Following the Autumn Budget, we are continuing to support Arts Council England's (ACE's) successful Supporting Grassroots Music Fund which provides grants to grassroots music organisations - including those that host or promote electronic music – including venues, rehearsal and recording studios, promoters and festivals. ACE continues to engage with industry through targeted webinars and events to promote the Fund to the club sector and encourage applications.*

*"This Government is focused on our five-point plan to breathe life back into Britain's high streets, to ensure they are great places for businesses, and economic growth across the UK.*

*"To deliver our manifesto pledge to protect the high street, from 2026-27, the government intends to introduce permanently lower tax rates for retail, hospitality, and leisure (RHL) properties with rateable values (RV) less than £500,000. To provide further support, the government has extended RHL relief at 40% for 2025-26.*

*"We have no plans to develop a separate night clubs strategy, but would be interested in hearing from her Select Committee if it has suggestions in this area."*

### Written Question on temporary visas for creative workers

James Frith, Labour MP for Bury North asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of the level of training for Border Force officers on temporary visas for creative workers.

Seema Malhotra, Minister for Migration and Citizenship responded:

*By reassuring Frith that "Border Force officers are trained to the highest standards to enforce immigration policy at the border. They undergo several weeks of training, covering all aspects of immigration law and policy, including entry for creative workers. Officers are continually tested to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge."*

She also highlighted what would be required for entry as a creative worker, a passanger must have a valid Temporary Work - Creative Worker certificate of

sponsorship (CoS), be coming to work in the UK for 3 months or less, and not normally need a visa to enter the UK as a visitor.

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