

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**

**Friday 6th**

**September**



## **EIA Update**

Over the summer break we held our regular catch up with officials from Department for Culture Media and Sport, who have confirmed attendance to the AEO Conference next month. We took the chance to reiterate our collective requests for the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Lisa Nandy, to attend all association annual conferences.

DCMS have met with Visit Britain and EIA to progress the agenda and invitation list for the Visit Britain/EIA Roundtable in October, seeking participation from officials across key departments and they confirmed the request for the Minister for Tourism, Chris Bryant, to attend is looking promising. We have provided feedback to officials on Martyn's Law, short term visa's, and have been asked to join a list of stakeholders for the forthcoming Department for Education's review of Curriculum and Assessment.

## **Political Update**

Westminster returned from the summer recess on Monday marking the start of a busy period for the new Government. Parliament is due to go on recess again on 12th September, this time for Party Conference, meaning that Westminster and the new Government has been a hub of activity as they try and squeeze as much as possible into the two intervening weeks.

This week significant progress was made on several of the Government's flagship policies including the Great British Energy Bill, nationalising the railways, proposals to remove hereditary peers, and reforms to address water companies.

However, the headlines this week has predominantly been focused on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report which found there had been decades of failure from the Government and others involved leading up to the tragedy. The other continuing news

story was over Labour's decision to cut the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners which has received backlash from the opposition, public, backbenchers, and the public.

Elsewhere this week, the Conservative party are continuing to look towards the future, with an increasingly distant Rishi Sunak, the first ballot of the Tory leadership took place on Wednesday and saw Priti Patel being eliminated from the race. Robert Jenrick and Kemi Badenoch emerged from the ballot as the two front-runners and the final vote will be held at Conservative Party Conference this month.

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## News

### Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy pledges to rebalance transport investment

Lisa Nandy has said that the Government is locked into ensuring transport investment outside of London is properly addressed. The Government will invest in transport in areas that are struggling economically to help encourage growth. She has also said she is committed to continuing the Tory pledge to rebalance art funding outside of London. She particularly pointed to coastal towns as areas with growth opportunity.

### Skills England Seeks Board Members

In a post on LinkedIn, Charlotte Govan, Deputy Director of the Department for Education responsible for Growth and Sector Skills has announced that they are looking for Board members to help shape the strategic direction of Skills England. Board members can come from a range of backgrounds including SME, industry, academia, and local authorities.

More information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

### Business Leaders meet with Ministers over 'Day One' Employment Rights

The Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds met with business leaders from major UK companies, including John Lewis, Sainsbury's, and Octopus Energy, to discuss Labour's proposed reforms to workers' rights. The meeting was described as constructive, with Labour committed to collaborating with industry to refine the proposals before the expected introduction of the employment rights bill in October.

The meeting came after concerns were raised by employers and business groups that the rights might result in a lack of flexibility that could hamper growth and increase costs.

### The Labour Party continue to 'reset' EU-UK relations

The Government has shown intent to reset the Britain's relationship with the EU. The Minister for Europe, Stephen Doughty visited Czech Republic and Slovenia this week, to discuss security issues. This was his first visit since the General Election and builds other ministerial visits in recent weeks. Last week the Prime Minister visited France and Germany, whilst the Foreign Secretary visited Germany, Poland, and Sweden. The reset has also been the subject of European Union Relations Minister Nick

Thomas-Symonds conversations with Brussels. It is hoped that improving the relationship will help to improve trade relations.

### Dynamic Pricing

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has stated that Dynamic pricing will now be included in the ticket resales consultation following the backlash from fans trying to buy Oasis tickets.

There were already plans to review secondary ticket sales market to prevent over inflated prices and fans being 'ripped off'. Ticketmaster has argued that they do not set the prices of tickets and these are instead set by the event organiser.

### Louise Haigh launched the a Shadow Great British Railway

The Secretary of State for Transport, Louise Haigh, has announced that she has instructed the CEO of Network Rail, the Director General for rail services in the Department for Transport, and the CEO of DfT OLR Holdings Ltd to establish a shadow Great British Railways. This comes ahead of legislation to create Great British Railways (GBR) as an arm's length body. The shadow body is to help drive improvements for both freight and passenger users.

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## Parliament

House of Commons

### Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill moves onto the House of Lords

The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill completed its Committee of the Whole House and remaining stages in the House of Commons. During the debate the opposition criticised the speed with which the Bill was moving through the Commons. Secretary of State for Transport Louise Haigh argued that the Bill demonstrated the party's ability to fulfil a central manifesto commitment and that there would be immediate benefits with better performance in the interest of passengers and taxpayers.

### Questions asked in the Commons over Dynamic Pricing

During Business of the House Jo White, Labour MP for Bassetlaw asked if there would be consideration to widen the consumer protection Bill to include dealing with dynamic pricing.

Lucy Powell, Leader of the House of Commons assured Ms White that as part of the consultation on secondary ticket pricing they would be looking at the issue of technology as it relates to queuing systems.

During Topical Questions Matt Western, Labour MP for Warwick and Leamington, asked for an urgent review of 'such price gouging systems'

The Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets, Justin Madders [responded](#) to say that he agreed the whole system needed reviewing and that it was his understanding that the Competition and Markets Authority is investigating as well.

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