

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 7th November



EIA Update

The PPS for Wales, Gill German MP, has agreed to a meeting with us to explore our industry and the barriers to growth. This is a good opportunity to strengthen engagement with a Welsh MP and ensure our sector's priorities are clearly understood.

Political Update

As we lead up to the Budget, Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered a surprise speech on Tuesday where she further signalled the likelihood of tax rises on 26 November, stressing that national interest must come before "political expediency". While refusing to confirm which taxes might increase, she pledged a "growth Budget with fairness at its heart", focused on cutting NHS waiting lists, reducing debt and easing living costs. Reeves argued that "each of us must do our bit", fuelling speculation about income tax changes. She blamed Conservative policies and global shocks for economic challenges, warning against heavy borrowing as debt hits £2.6 trillion.

Also this week, the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, attended COP 30 in Brazil. Reportedly the decision for him to go was made quite late and a recent surge of support for the Green Party in the polls may have influenced this decision. During the summit Starmer said that the 'consensus is gone' when referring to the fight against climate change and reiterated that the UK was 'all in'.

Parliament is now in a mini recess and will return next Tuesday 11th November.

News

UK Tourism Minister Champions Growth at Global Summit

During the World Travel Market and addressing Tourism Ministers from across the globe, Stephanie Peacock, Minister for Tourism, highlighted the UK's leadership in sustainable travel and digital innovation. She emphasised strong foreign investment, regional developments like Aviva Studios and Universal's Bedford project, and the nation's cultural and heritage strengths. Peacock also promoted Government initiatives such as Local Visitor Economy Partnerships and Destination Development Partnerships, which aim to foster collaboration and local growth.

Great British Railway

On 5th November the Railway Bill was laid before Parliament. Great British Railways (GBR) will launch about a year after legislation passes, uniting track and train under one publicly owned body. It is hoped the GBR will end fragmentation, simplify fares, improve reliability, and prioritise passengers and freight customers. With full control of services and timetables, it promises fewer delays and a better experience. It is designed so that travellers will only use "the railway" with the intention that it will deliver long-term improvements for taxpayers and rebuild trust in the network.

UK Culture Minister Highlights Global Collaboration at G20 Summit

At the G20 Culture Ministerial in South Africa, Stephanie Peacock, Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth, reaffirmed the UK's commitment to cultural diversity, heritage protection, and creative industry growth. She praised South Africa's leadership and cultural vibrancy, citing initiatives like UNESCO ratification and the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme. Peacock stressed priorities including international touring, digital innovation, and climate-focused cultural solutions. She announced UK efforts to shape an inclusive digital ecosystem and safeguard heritage sites worldwide.

DCMS Research Reveals Barriers and Opportunities in Creative Careers

New DCMS research highlights strong interest among young people in creative industries, particularly IT and digital roles, but low awareness of career diversity and pathways. Motivators include pursuing passions and flexible work, while barriers centre on perceived insecurity, competitiveness, and unclear routes into the sector. Parents and young people often assume exceptional talent and university degrees are essential. Regional gaps persist, with concerns about local job availability. The findings will inform campaigns like Discover! Creative Careers to boost engagement and accessibility nationwide.

Interest Rates Held

The Bank of England kept interest rates at 4% in a narrow 5-4 vote, signalling inflation has peaked at 3.8%. Governor Andrew Bailey said cuts would wait until further evidence of easing prices. The Bank expects rates to fall gradually, with inflation nearing 3% early next year. Ahead of the 26 November Budget, speculation grows over tax rises by Chancellor Rachel Reeves. The Bank warned

consumer confidence remains weak, with businesses cautious on hiring and investment.

Saudi Events Industry Powers Vision 2030 Transformation

Saudi Arabia's events sector is emerging as a key driver of Vision 2030, positioning themselves as a global hub for tech and business. With over 17,000 events held annually and major conferences like Cityscape Global, Black Hat MEA, and LEAP, the industry is attracting international brands and investment. Supported by infrastructure and local skills, this boom is creating jobs, boosting investor confidence, and delivering billions in economic impact.

State of Play: Deaflympics

On the back of the most recent 'State of Play' inquiry the Culture, Media, and Sport Committee, have written to major broadcasters, including the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky, over the lack of planned coverage for the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo. The Culture, Media and Sport Committee raised concerns following evidence of funding disparities for elite deaf athletes compared to Olympians and Paralympians. Chair Dame Caroline Dinenage called the absence of coverage a "missed opportunity" to boost representation and recognition. The Committee will press the Government on funding ahead of the Games. There are currently no announcements on the next State of Play Inquiry.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question on mobility within the Schengen

Richard Holden, Conservative MP for Basildon and Billericay, asked the Secretary of State for Business and Trade:

"What support his Department is providing to UK companies in the (a) events and (b) logistics sectors affected by EU visa and travel restrictions under the Schengen 90/180-day rule."

Chris Bryant, Minister for Trade, responded:

"The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) recognises the challenges UK businesses face in complying with the Schengen 90/180 day rule. I note many of these stem from the botched Brexit deal which he supported. Any changes to the rule are a matter for Member States and the EU. However, DBT publishes guidance for UK nationals travelling to the EU and EFTA countries for business purposes ([Travelling to the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein for work - GOV.UK](#)). DBT will continue to listen to concerns raised by businesses affected by these rules, to advocate for UK companies abroad, and to explore mutually beneficial improvements to short-term business mobility between the UK and EU."

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