

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 9th May**



## **EIA Update**

Earlier this week the EIA met with Jack Rankin MP, who is an Officer for the Events All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). During the meeting the EIA were able to convey the priorities of our sector and discuss the issues we are facing. Rankin demonstrated a good knowledge of our industry and we look forward to engaging with him in the future.

We are also in the process of organising a meeting with Martin Rhodes, Labour MP for Glasgow North and member of the Events APPG.

On Tuesday we were pleased to attend a dinner with Shaun Davies MP and Chair of the Events APPG along with other industry representatives to discuss our sector in greater detail.

## **Political Update**

This week has seen a trade focus from the Government with trade deals and agreements announced between the UK and India as well as the UK and US.

On Tuesday the UK and India announced a trade deal easing UK exports to India, while reducing taxes on India's clothing and footwear exports. The deal, which took three years, excludes immigration policy changes. It aims to boost trade by £25.5bn annually by 2040.

President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the details of the US-UK trade agreement on Thursday. This agreement makes the UK the first major economy to reach a pact with the US following Trump's tariff announcements and has largely received a positive reaction across the two countries.

The key industries which have seen changes to tariffs are car manufacturing, steel, and agriculture. Although there were expected to be announcements on pharmaceuticals and tech it has since become clear that these discussions will take place further down the road. Cavendish have provided a note on the US - UK trade agreement which can be found [here](#).

Key points:

- British cars reduced to 10% tariffs for the first 100,000 cars
- 25% tariff on steel and aluminium exports has been cut
- British beef farmers have gained access to US markets
- 10% baseline tariff on most other goods.

On domestic matters the Prime Minister Keir Starmer faces a rebellion by Labour MPs over planned £5bn welfare cuts by 2030, which they warn are "impossible to support" without a "change of direction". In a letter to The Guardian, 42 MPs expressed concerns about the impact on disabled people and urged delays until impact assessments are published. The Department for Work and Pensions insists the reforms aim to help more people into work. There are now rumours that around a further 40 MPs will also sign a letter that is due to be sent to the Whips office on Monday (12th May) which would mark the largest rebellion the Prime Minister has faced since his election.

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## News

### Department of Culture Media and Sport restructure

Following the Local Elections last week there have been increasing rumours about a planned cabinet reshuffle in June. The Times reported that Starmer is also looking at disbanding the Department for Culture Media and Sport and redistributing the responsibilities between the Department for Business and Trade, Department for Education, and the Treasury.

### Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed between the UK - India

UK and India have signed a new Cultural Cooperation Agreement, enhancing collaboration in arts, culture, creative industries, tourism, and sport. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy, led a delegation to Mumbai and New Delhi, and said the agreement that aims to boost UK creative exports and partnerships with Indian institutions. More broadly, the initiative aims to strengthen cultural ties, promote economic links, and celebrate leading film and tv of both nations.

### Bank of England Governor urges UK to rebuild relationship with EU

The Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, has emphasised the need for the UK to "rebuild" its trade relationship with the European Union and do "everything we can" to improve long-term trade. Following the recent US deal, Bailey highlighted the benefits of reversing the post-Brexit decline in UK-EU trade. He stressed the

importance of trade agreements, noting that the EU remains the UK's largest trading partner and that rebuilding this relationship is crucial for economic stability.

### UK cuts interest rates

The Bank of England has reduced UK interest rates to 4.25% from 4.5%, marking the fourth cut in a year. Governor Andrew Bailey hinted at further gradual reductions, citing concerns over the global trade war's impact on UK economic growth. The rate-setting committee was divided, with five members supporting the cut, two favouring a larger reduction, and two voting for no change.

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## Parliament

### House of Commons

#### Written Question on touring artists in the EU

Dame Caroline Dinenage, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

*"What progress she has made on a touring agreement with the EU?"*

Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism responded:

*"The UK Government remains in constructive dialogue with the EU on tackling the challenges facing UK musicians and their support staff when touring in the EU, as well as other EU reset priorities. Cabinet Office Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds and European trade commissioner Maroš Šefčovič have been tasked with moving discussions forward and leaders will take stock at the UK-EU Summit in May."*

#### Written Question on Creative Europe

Max Wilkinson, Liberal Democrat MP for Cheltenham, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

*"What discussions her Department has had with the creative industries on joining Creative Europe?"*

Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism responded:

*"The UK is not part of Creative Europe, and has not been since the UK left the European Union."*

*"This government has not proposed any plans to rejoin Creative Europe, though we are committed to finding constructive ways to work with the EU and deliver for the British people on shared priorities and global challenges."*

*"We recognise the UK's creative and cultural sectors provide a unique and valuable contribution to Europe's diverse cultural landscape. We are working with our world-leading sectors to ensure that they can continue to promote growth and enrich lives, at*

*home and abroad, including through initiatives such as the £7 million UK Global Screen Fund, and the £1.6 million Music Export Growth Scheme."*

#### House of Lords

##### **Debate EU-UK Summit and visas for creative professionals**

The Earl of Clancarty, Crossbench, asked if the Government plans to negotiate a visa waiver agreement for creative professionals touring the EU and if this will be on the agenda at the EU-UK summit on 19 May.

Baroness Blake of Leeds, Government Whip, responded, emphasising the Government's commitment to a closer relationship with the EU and improving touring arrangements for artists which was a Labour manifesto pledge. She confirmed that cabotage issues are on the agenda and highlighted the importance of the summit for addressing various issues. She did not go as far as to confirm the inclusion of this issue on the agenda.

Baroness Winterton of Doncaster, Labour and Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury, Liberal Democrat, raised concerns about the impact of Brexit on UK musicians, including cabotage rules and withholding tax.

Lord Berkeley of Knighton, Crossbench and Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Conservative urged the Government to address these issues urgently. Baroness Blake reiterated the Government's commitment to supporting creative professionals and ongoing efforts to build relationships with the EU.

**For any queries regarding this round-up  
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