

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 18th July**



## **EIA Update**

This week we continued to finalise the details for our panel event at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool.

Our MRA campaign calling for a specific agreement between the EU and the UK for the business events industry is continuing and we are pleased by the industry media pick-up of the campaign. If you haven't done already please do engage with all our LinkedIn posts which can be found [here](#).

The House of Commons will rise for recess next Tuesday 22nd July and the House of Lords will rise on Thursday 24th July, with both Houses returning on 1st September. As such, this monitor will be paused over the summer.

## **Political Update**

Rachel Reeves delivered her Mansion House speech on Tuesday 15th July. Amid economic uncertainty and a surprise GDP dip, the Chancellor's speech sought to reassure markets and outline priorities ahead of the Autumn Budget. Emphasising regulatory reform over fiscal shifts, she avoided expected ISA and bank levy changes, signalling caution while maintaining authority under mounting political and financial pressure. Cavendishes full briefing can be found [here](#).

The Government hoped to gain some positive news coverage following an announcement that 16 and 17 year olds would be given the vote in the next General Election. This would fulfil a labour manifesto pledge for the Government who pledged to lower the voting age to 16, and would see the biggest change since 1969 when the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18.

Elsewhere the Labour party suspended four MPs following repeated rebellions, these were Neil Duncan-Jordan, Brian Leishman, Chris Hinchliff, and Rachael Maskell. This comes after 47 MP rebelled against the proposed cuts to Welfare. Diana Abbott was also suspended from the Party this week following racism allegations spanning back to a letter she wrote in April 2023.

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## News

### Direct train between Berlin and London

The UK and Germany have signed the Kensington Treaty, unveiling plans for a direct London–Berlin rail link and streamlined e-gates for frequent travellers. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer also agreed on school exchanges, tighter anti-smuggling laws, and enhanced defence cooperation. A joint taskforce will explore border controls for the rail route, with Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander calling it a greener alternative to flying. The treaty also includes £200m in UK investments and a new UK-Germany Business Forum.

### Infrastructure Pipeline launched

The Government has launched a live dashboard on the UK Infrastructure Pipeline. It outlines £725 billion in capital investment over ten years, with £530 billion already allocated. Transport accounts for 14% of planned spending, including major projects like HS2's Euston Station and the Lower Thames Crossing. The Pipeline offers long-term visibility for investors and supply chains, and is designed to support job creation, regional growth, and innovation.

The map with all the regions can be found [here](#).

### Tourist tax proposed for Southwark Council

Southwark Council has advanced plans for a tourist tax, aiming to raise over £2 million annually to support local services. The motion, originally proposed by the Liberal Democrats, was amended by Labour, with both parties calling for a London-wide mandatory levy. Brent Council passed a similar motion, citing the need for visitors to contribute fairly to upkeep, particularly around Wembley Stadium, which hosted nearly three million attendees last year.

### Civil Society Covenant

The Government has unveiled the Civil Society Covenant, a landmark agreement redefining its relationship with civil society. Backed by over 1,200 organisations, the Covenant promotes collaboration, transparency, and mutual respect between government and charities, social enterprises, and community groups. It aims to embed civil society in policymaking, protect its independence, and foster long-term partnerships. A Joint Council will oversee its implementation.

### Irish musicians given funding for international touring

Ireland have announced €1.4 million in funding to support more than 100 international tours by Irish musicians. Part of Culture Ireland's Regular Grants Programme, the initiative will promote 187 arts projects across 41 countries. Artists including Pillow Queens, The Fureys, and Kíla will benefit. The funding also supports theatre, dance, film, and visual arts.

## Parliament

House of Commons

### Written Question on resale of tickets

Anneliese Midgley, Labour MP for Knowsley asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

*"When her Department plans to publish stakeholder responses to its consultation entitled Putting Fans First: consultation on the resale of live events tickets, published on 10 January 2025."*

Chris Bryant, Minister for Culture, Media and Sports responded:

*"We will publish a Government response later in the summer."*

For any queries regarding this round-up  
please get in touch today.

Get in touch



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