

# CAVENDISH

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**Weekly Monitoring**  
**Friday 11th July**



## EIA Update

This week, we were delighted to have Cavendish Consulting attend the AEV CEO Summit where they provided an update on the work they have done throughout the year as well as a general political update.

We are continuing to promote our MRA campaign and you would have seen that another LinkedIn post went up this week. Please do engage with all our LinkedIn posts on the MRA Campaign to help improve visibility and traction.

In addition to our MRA campaign we are preparing for our panel event at the upcoming Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. We are delighted that we have already had confirmation that Jo Platt MP, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, would like to join our panellists and hope to confirm other panellists soon.

## Political Update

This week's spotlight has been on President Macron's state visit to the UK, the first by a European leader since Brexit. The visit was used to unveil a new migration agreement based on a 'one in, one out' principle. Under the plan, the UK will return some asylum seekers to France while accepting a proportion of cross-Channel arrivals, equating to around 6% being sent back.

Elsewhere, the Chancellor faced further economic headwind as the Office for National Statistics reported a contraction in the economy for May. This news arrives just ahead of her annual Mansion House speech. Originally expected to announce reforms to cash ISAs, reports now suggest these plans have been shelved following public backlash.

Meanwhile, the Government introduced yet another policy proposal, the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. This legislation will require Strategic Authorities to produce Local Growth Plans and roadmaps for delivery. It presents an

opportunity for the Business Events Industry to ensure mayors adopt a strategic approach for leveraging the sector in support of local economic development.

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## News

### Research into investment and innovation in cultural sectors

The current Government has prioritised economic growth and higher living standards, with investment and innovation at the heart of this mission. However, the UK lags behind other G7 nations in business investment. To address this, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) commissioned two studies. The first, by NatCen, found that innovation boosts productivity in DCMS sectors through process efficiencies and enhanced products. Key barriers include attitudes, funding access, and skills gaps. The second, by the Behavioural Insights Team, revealed behavioural obstacles to investment, such as risk aversion and limited understanding. Tailored policy interventions are needed to overcome these challenges.

### Transport links across the UK to be improved

The Government has approved over 50 road and rail infrastructure upgrades across England, marking the largest investment in transport in a generation. Backed by £92.8 billion, the projects include five major road schemes such as the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine dualling and the M54 to M6 link road, aimed at reducing congestion and improving connectivity. On the rail side, key developments include the reinstatement of the Portishead to Bristol line, new stations at Wellington, Cullompton and Haxby, and the ambitious Midlands Rail Hub. These upgrades will enhance regional access, cut journey times, and modernise the national transport network.

### Wales approves new tourist tax

Holidaymakers staying overnight in parts of Wales may soon face a new tourist levy, following a vote in the Senedd. From 2027 at the earliest, local councils will have the power to introduce a charge of up to £1.30 per person per night, with lower rates for hostels and campsites. The Welsh Government estimates the tax could raise £33 million annually to support tourism infrastructure. While some councils, including Cardiff and Gwynedd, are interested, others have ruled it out. Critics, including the Welsh Conservatives and tourism groups, warn it could deter visitors and harm the sector.

### UK economy

The Bank of England has warned that global tensions and trade wars pose growing risks to the UK's financial stability, despite a resilient banking sector and strong household debt servicing. Its Financial Stability Report highlights vulnerabilities in firms reliant on high-risk financing and private equity, which may struggle amid rising interest rates. Meanwhile, the ONS reported that the UK economy contracted by 0.1% in May 2025, following a 0.3% fall in April. The production and construction sectors declined, while services saw modest growth. Overall, GDP rose by 0.5% over the three months to May, driven largely by earlier gains in services.

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# Parliament

## House of Commons

### Committee examines Creative Industries Sector Plan

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee's oral evidence session on the Creative Industries Sector Plan (8 July 2025) explored investment, skills, and policy coordination.

Sir Peter Bazalgette, Co Chair of the Creative Industries Sector Plan Taskforce, emphasised the need for increased investment in R&D and SMEs, highlighting the recognition of "createch" as a major step forward. Caroline Norbury, Chief Executive of Creative UK, welcomed the plan's holistic approach, particularly its support for freelancers and fragmented creative ecosystems. Baroness Vadera, co-chair of the Creative Industries Sector Plan Taskforce, noted the lack of spending commitments due to the timing of the Spending Review, stressing the need for tailored skills support and arts education reform.

The panel also discussed AI and copyright, with Vadera proposing a voluntary creative content exchange to protect and monetise IP. Sir Chris Bryant, Minister for Creative Industries, underscored the plan's ambition to grow the sector through improved access to finance and R&D support. He confirmed the freelance champion role and acknowledged the need for further work on skills, public service broadcasting, and regional investment. The Committee pledged continued scrutiny.

### Debate on EU and UK relationships

Labour MPs Tony Vaughan (Folkestone and Hythe), Gregor Poynton (Livingston), and Connor Rand (Altrincham and Sale West) all asked the Government what they were doing to improve UK-EU relations. Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds (Lab) highlighted the UK-EU strategic partnership, citing benefits such as reduced trade barriers and enhanced security. Vaughan welcomed the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement's impact on Folkestone and Dover. Poynton praised its benefits for Scottish exports, while Rand lauded the "grown-up" approach. James Wild (Con, North West Norfolk) questioned the lack of legal text. Alistair Carmichael (LD) urged business engagement, and Robin Swann (UUP) called for extended grace periods under the Windsor Framework.

### Written Question on implementing EU-UK agreements

Caroline Voaden, Liberal Democrat MP for South Devon asked the Minister for the Cabinet Office:

"What recent progress his Department has made on implementing the UK-EU summit agreements"

Nick Thomas-Symonds Minister for European Union Relations responded:

*"At the first UK-EU Summit, the Government agreed a substantial package to take forward our new Strategic Partnership with the EU. We are proceeding swiftly with technical negotiations to implement these commitments. We will keep Parliament updated on significant developments."*

### Written Question on Tourism in Scotland

Blake Stephenson, Conservative MP for Mid Bedfordshire, asked the Secretary of State for Scotland:

*"What discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on trends in the level of tourism in Scotland?"*

Ian Murray, Secretary for Scotland responded:

*"As a former small business owner myself, I have first hand experience and determination for ensuring Scotland's small businesses thrive. Tourism is crucial not only for the economy, but for supporting local communities and promoting Scotland's unique culture and natural beauty.*

*"Through our Brand Scotland campaign, the Scotland Office is promoting Scotland as a premier destination for both business and leisure.*

*"I am always eager to discuss matters important to Scotland, and have committed to meeting with VisitScotland as early as my diary permits."*

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**For any queries regarding this round-up  
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**Get in touch**



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