

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 4th July



EIA Update

This week, we publically launched our MRA campaign with coverage in [Exhibition News](#) and [Events Industry News](#). We've also been posting about the campaign on LinkedIn. If you haven't already interacted with these posts, you can view them [here](#).

We also received a promising response from Minister for Exports, Gareth Thomas. The Minister - whose responsibilities include export strategy, trade missions, shows and campaigns - recognised the unique challenges facing our sector following the UK's departure from the EU and promised to continue to work with the EIA on finding ways to overcome these barriers. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Minister and his team in the coming weeks.

The Minister's full response can be read [here](#).

Political Update

The Government endured a challenging week, narrowly passing a significantly weakened Welfare Bill after making last-minute concessions to appease Labour backbench rebels. Key elements - particularly changes to disability benefits - were delayed, exposing deep internal divisions and raising questions about the Government's credibility, legislative strategy, and the pressure mounting on Chancellor Rachel Reeves' spending plans.

Further signs of political strain emerged with the resignation of ex-Labour MP Zarah Sultana, who announced the formation of a new party alongside former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. The move highlights growing discontent within Labour ranks, especially over the Government's stance on Gaza, welfare, and broader social justice issues. This splintering risks further weakening Labour's unity and electoral standing.

On a more constructive note, the Government published its long-anticipated 10-Year Health Plan on Thursday. Building on recommendations from Lord Darzi's review - which warned that the NHS is "in serious trouble" - the plan sets out a new operating model, financial reform agenda, and workforce transformation. Innovation is placed at the heart of the strategy. This follows Labour's first-year focus on the NHS, marked by progress on reducing waiting times and increased funding outlined in the Spending Review.

News

Tourism Ireland visits Germany to promote Ireland as a premier destination for Business Events

Ten tourism companies from the island of Ireland have joined Tourism Ireland in Düsseldorf and Munich this week, promoting the island of Ireland as a premier destination for Business Events to top German travel buyers. The two-city roadshow involves a programme of bespoke one-to-one appointments and networking sessions. Nadine Lehmann from Tourism Ireland said: *"Our message is that the island of Ireland offers a winning combination of world-class infrastructure, unique and luxurious accommodation, state-of-the-art venues, spectacular landscapes, the warmest of welcomes and fantastic hospitality, making it an ideal destination for corporate meetings, incentive travel and events of all sizes."*

Government unveils roadmap for Employment Rights Bill implementation

The Government published its Employment Rights Bill roadmap on Tuesday, promising reforms including sick pay for 1.3 million low earners and day-one rights to parental leave. The Department for Business and Trade confirmed that some of the Bill's more contentious measures would not come in for at least two years, to give employers time to adjust while the Government continues consultations.

Italian conference and events sector reports 8% growth in 2024

Italy's conference sector has recorded strong growth, according to findings from an Italian research survey. Conferences and events increased 8.2% to nearly 368,000 in 2024. The Italian Survey of Conferences and Events found delegates totalled 29.3m last year, up 7.8% from 2023. Total attendance reached 47.2m, a jump of 12.9%. Federcongressi&eventi president Gabriella Gentile said: *"OICE data and Italy's growing appeal are the combined result of various factors: the quality of Italian conference facilities, operators' high level of professionalism and the ability of our companies to capitalise on new opportunities and compete on an international level."*

UK cost of borrowing falls

The cost of government borrowing has fallen. The yield on UK 10-year bonds fell to 4.45%, down from 4.61% at the previous day's close, as markets reacted to the Prime Minister's comments that he worked "in lockstep" with Rachel Reeves. The rise in borrowing costs was initially sparked by the feeling the Chancellor might step down, seeming to indicate that the markets are supportive of her.

Oxford visitors could face new 'tourist tax'

According to reports, Oxford City Council is currently exploring the introduction of an Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) which would see hotel and college room rates adding a surcharge for guests. City officials are currently discussing how Oxford can "better manage the effects of tourism while ensuring it remains a vibrant and popular place for residents and visitors". In a statement, authorities suggested that such a levy could unlock up to £10m for additional projects.

Parliament

House of Commons

Committee examines Creative Industries Sector Plan

This week, representatives from industry and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport gave evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee as part of a one-off inquiry to examine the Government's Creative Industries Sector Plan that was published on 23 June. Witnesses included Caroline Norbury OBE, Chief Executive at Creative UK and

Sir Chris Bryant MP, Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism. A full transcript of the session is yet to be published but a summary will be provided in next week's monitor.

Written Question: UK/EU Relations

Liam Conlon, Labour MP for Beckenham and Penge, asked the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent steps he has taken to develop relations between the UK Government and the European Union. Cabinet Office Minister, Nick Thomas-Symonds responded:

"At the first UK-EU Summit held on 19 May, the Government agreed a substantial package to take forward our future partnership. The Government will now move forward to begin negotiations to conclude as swiftly as possible. We will keep Parliament updated on significant developments."

Oral Question: Live Events

During Oral Questions to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Labour MP for Shipley, Anna Dixon, asked what steps the Secretary of State is taking to help ensure that disabled people have equal access to live events. Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Lisa Nandy, responded:

"It is crucial that access to live events is open to disabled people. We are supporting Arts Council England and its partners to develop the All In scheme, which should significantly improve accessibility in that area. Last summer I was at the Paralympics, where I was horrified to hear from young people with disabilities about their lack of access to sport in particular. This Government are taking every action and using every lever at our disposal to change that."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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