

Events Industry Alliance End of Week Report

Friday 14th August

EIA update

- **Joint letter backing the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's business events report drafted to PM, Chancellor, and Business Secretary.**
- **Preparing outreach to Lord Leong, the small business minister.**
- **ESSA continued its member letter-writing campaign to local MPs.**
- **Another quiet week with Parliament in recess, Burnham touring UK.**

Hi all,

With August providing a slightly quieter period in Westminster and Burnham embarking on his 'cost of living tour' of the UK, our focus is now firmly on capitalising on engagement when Parliament returns.

Our joint letter to DCMS, calling for implementation of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report recommendations, has now been adapted for outreach to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Business Secretary. This will help build greater cross-departmental awareness of the business events sector among senior Government officials. Alongside this, Jo Platt – a member of the Committee and a strong advocate for the sector – has now been appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. We have reached out to congratulate her on her new role and encourage her to continue championing the report's recommendations with the PM.

We will also be seeking a meeting with Lord Leong, who has now been confirmed as Minister for Small Business, to introduce him to the breadth of small and family-run businesses that make up the events industry.

Finally, as noted previously, thank you to the team at ESSA for putting together a very effective tool to help members contact their MP. You can find the link to it [here](#). We really encourage members to use it: it's very accessible, and some of those that are already reporting responses from MPs. If you do get a response and would like any assistance with follow-up, please do contact the Henham team!

Best,
Alexander

Government this week

Monday 10th August

- **Hamish Falconer (Minister for European Relations)** signalled Labour wants a [renewed pace on post-Brexit talks](#) and deeper cooperation on services - including visa-free work travel and mutual recognition of qualifications - while holding Labour's manifesto red lines on the single market and customs union. The reset summit, delayed since Starmer's resignation, may now slip to October with tuition fees for EU students the central point of contention given pressure on university finances.

Tuesday 11th August

- Andy Burnham reiterated his planned [20% business rates cut](#) for pubs, social clubs and live music venues, suggesting it could be partly funded by “reviewing reliefs for businesses that do not make a positive contribution to their communities”. Earlier in the statement he stated that high streets had been “hollowed out by the unchecked spread of vape stores, betting shops, and rogue businesses.”

What happened in Parliament

Parliament is in recess and will return on 1st September.

Week ahead

Both Houses will return on 1st September.

Regional News

Friday 14th August

- Nigel Farage [has won re-election](#) in Clacton, securing 22,239 votes in a by-election triggered by his resignation, with the major parties declining to contest the seat. His return to Parliament has restarted a parliamentary standards investigation into whether he failed to declare a £5m gift from crypto-billionaire Christopher Harborne and other financial support.

Media snapshot

Zero-hours reforms could cost employers up to £2.9bn a year

Government modelling of the Employment Rights Act 2025’s zero-hours reforms – covering guaranteed hours, shift notice and cancellation compensation – [estimates that](#) the measures could cost employers between £350m and £2.9bn a year, with hospitality identified as the sector most exposed. Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive of UKHospitality, said the “eyewatering” cost comes at a particularly difficult time for the sector, which has already lost more than 100,000 jobs.

AEV publishes 2026 eGuide

The Association of Event Venues (AEV) has published its 2026 [eGuide](#), a key industry resource covering event operation and management. This year’s update reviews sections covering gas, medical provision, simulators/rides/inflatables, special effects and special treatments, with input from AEO and ESSA.

QEII Centre reports growth in AI-focused events

The QEII Centre in London has [reported a 25% year-on-year increase](#) in AI-focused events at the venue, with five held in 2026 and two more confirmed for 2027, projecting around 24,000 delegates across sectors. Saf Ismail (Chief Executive, QEII Centre) said: “Businesses across every sector are looking for practical answers on how to adopt AI, manage its risks and maximise its potential.”

If you have any questions regarding this update, please contact the Henham Strategy team.

Get in touch

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