

Events Industry Alliance End of Week Report

Friday 25th September

EIA update

- EIA publish reaction to Government's response to the CMS's committee's report.
- Parliamentary questions drafted for ESSA-allied MPs.
- Final preparations for Labour Conference this weekend.

Hi all,

Following the publication of the Government's response to the CMS report last week, we worked with The Business of Events to prepare a joint statement setting out the sector's response. We welcomed the Government's recognition of the unique contribution of business events and its commitment to a more joined-up approach, while highlighting the need for further assurances on long-term support and the sector's place in the forthcoming National Events Strategy.

Alongside this public response, we have also been drafting follow-ups to MPs who were receptive to ESSA's successful outreach campaign. These include suggested written Parliamentary Questions for allied MPs to submit, calling on the Government to provide an update on progress against the recommendations of the CMS report, as well as highlighting areas where we had hoped to see greater recognition. We're thrilled with how well the outreach has gone, and thank all the ESSA members for their work on this!

Finally, with Labour Conference this weekend, focus has turned to how Henham and the EIA can make the most of the fringe. We'll be keeping a close eye on relevant events, and receptions and looking out for opportunities to engage with constituent MPs, APPG members and Government officials as the week unfolds.

Best,
Alexander

Government this week

Wednesday 23rd September

- The Cabinet Office [confirmed](#) that the UK will host the twenty-second G20 Leaders' Summit in Manchester in November 2027, to be held at the Manchester Central Convention Centre. As well as the Manchester Summit, locations across the UK are also set to host further events throughout the year. **Garry Bridges (Leader of Manchester City Council)** pointed to "immense" opportunities "in the short term for our hospitality sector and in the longer term for attracting investment, visitors and jobs."

What happened in Parliament

Wednesday 23rd September

- The Treasury Committee's [inquiry into the Office for Budget Responsibility](#) concluded that, despite criticism of its forecasts and the wider fiscal framework, the OBR's independence remains important, particularly given the UK's limited fiscal space. It recommended that the OBR improve its forecasting, including by adding a medium-term 10-year forecast, while rejecting calls for immediate fundamental reform to its role or independence.

Both Houses remained in conference recess throughout the week; they will return on Monday 12th October.

Written questions

Friday 18th September

- **Baroness Ritchie (Lab)** [asked](#) the Government what assessment it had made of the additional administrative capacity local government will need to take on new tax powers.
 - **Baroness Taylor (Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government)** replied that Strategic Authorities will be the tax authority responsible for administering the Overnight Visitor Levy, and that Government continues to work with local government on the capacity implications of devolved powers.

Monday 21st September

- **Baroness Ritchie (Lab)** [asked](#) the Government what assessment it had made of the merits of replacing business rates with a land value tax.
 - **Lord Pitt-Watson (Parliamentary Secretary at the Treasury)** replied that the Government is committed to a fairer business rates system "that protects the high street, supports investment, and is fit for the 21st century", pointing to the 2025 Call for Evidence on business rates and investment as the vehicle for further reform.

Week ahead

Sunday 27th - Wednesday 30th September

- The Labour Party Conference takes place in Liverpool. **Henham to monitor** for fringe activity, ministerial speeches and any sector announcements relevant to the EIA.

Media snapshot

AEV announces keynote speakers for 2026 annual conference

The Association of Event Venues (AEV) [has announced](#) human-performance expert Alexandra Forsyth as the opening keynote speaker for its annual conference at London's ICC Olympia on 26 November, speaking on the importance of human leadership in an AI-driven world. The conference will also feature Stephan Forseilles, CTO of Easyfairs, on practical applications of AI in venue operations, with this year's programme focused on how technology is transforming the events industry while retaining the "human advantage."

Tony Blair urges Burnham to rejoin the EU

This week the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change published [Beyond Leave and Remain: A Path to Rejoining a Reformed Europe](#), which called on the Prime Minister to make rejoining the EU the “cornerstone” of his 10-year plan. Burnham has said he does not wish to pursue membership of the union in the near term, telling reporters it was a question “for another day”.

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

Get in touch

If you would like to unsubscribe from these updates, please email alexander.edwards@henhamstrategy.co.uk