

Events Industry Alliance End of Week Report *Friday 26th June*

EIA update

Hi all,

As you will have seen, on Monday Keir Starmer resigned as the Labour Party leader, setting the formal timetable for a contest to decide the next Prime Minister. So far only Andy Burnham has announced he will run, and if he remains unopposed – as is looking increasingly likely – he would succeed Starmer as Prime Minister at a special party conference on 17th July. If a full contest does happen, the victor will be announced on 29th August.

Despite the political turmoil on Monday, we have successfully continued our engagement with government this week. We had a fruitful conversation with James Asser MP who was very receptive to our asks and has asked for further information on Visit Britain as well as the Business of Events. Sadly, Saqib Bhatti had a last-minute commitment - but we are already re-scheduling with his team and hope to meet him soon.

As always, we enjoyed coming down to Excel London – this time to present to the AEO board meeting. Now we have met you all, we really wanted to thank all three associations for having us speak to you about our plans for the next nine months. We really valued the feedback that board members gave on our strategy and are looking to address them when shaping our approach in the coming weeks.

On the industrial strategy front, we have been preparing briefing materials for the Department for Business and Trade, including an overview of major UK trade shows and exhibitions across the eight Industrial Strategy sectors, with notes on their relevance to DBT's work. As a follow up piece, we are also looking to demonstrate the value of major events organised by UK companies abroad, and the platform these provide for UK firms globally. The briefing has now been sent to their head of business engagement - who we hope can be a crucial advocate for us in government.

Best,
Alexander

Government this week

Tuesday 23rd June

- At the 'UK in a Changing Europe conference' **Nick Thomas-Symonds (Minister for European Relations)** [stated that](#) the aftermath of Brexit had been poorly handled, and that the next ten years will be defined by how the continent's economy and safety is protected. Talking about business relations, he stated that British-EU supply chains were "intrinsically linked" and stressed the need for "trusted, pragmatic partnership."
- The Security Industry Authority published its [Strategic Plan 2026 to 2029](#), setting out its priorities as it prepares to take on the role of regulator under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law). The SIA also opened a draft [responsible buyer's charter](#) for feedback, relevant to

event organisers and venues procuring security staff. The full duty under Martyn's Law comes into force in spring 2027, with final Section 12 statutory guidance expected this autumn.

Wednesday 24th June

- The Government [confirmed](#) it would not bring forward new policy announcements during the transition to a new Labour leader, following Keir Starmer's resignation as Prime Minister and Labour leader. In the interim, a No. 10 spokesperson said "the business of government will continue" in line with precedent.

What happened in Parliament

Tuesday 23rd June

- During Treasury OPQs, **Claire Young (Thornbury and Yate)** asked what steps the Chancellor is taking to reform business rates. Young's supplementary question asked the Exchequer Secretary if he agreed that the business rate system was broken and should be replaced with a fairer alternative.
 - **Dan Tomlinson (Exchequer Secretary)** said the Government has been reforming business rates so they can put in permanently lower business rates for high streets. On abolishing the business rate system, Tomlinson said it was important to have a broad tax base.

Written Questions

Monday 22nd June

- **Gregory Campbell (DUP, East Londonderry)** [asked](#) the Culture Secretary how many trade missions supporting Northern Irish businesses VisitBritain and Tourism Ireland had jointly funded.
 - **Stephanie Peacock (Minister for Tourism)** replied that three were funded in 2024 (Stockholm, Shanghai and Frankfurt) and six in 2025.
- **Dr Al Pinkerton (LD, Surrey Heath)** [asked](#) the Treasury to publish data on the number of SMEs that had ceased exporting to the EU since withdrawal.
 - **Dan Tomlinson** responded that HMRC does not hold that estimate due to various methodological and data collection constraints

Regional news

The Meetings Show returns to Excel London.

The UK's flagship trade show for the meetings and events industry, The Meetings Show, returned to Excel London, drawing around 6,000 professionals and 550-plus exhibitors. **Martin Rhodes (Lab, Glasgow North)** Chair of the APPG for Events, officially opened the show and [used his speech](#) to say he will work "persistently and consistently" to ensure events gain recognition and support from government despite recent funding cuts at VisitBritain and London & Partners threatening international visibility.

Cambridge Boosted as Events Destination with LVEP Status.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [have been awarded](#) Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) status by VisitEngland, boosting Cambridge's profile as a destination for business events. The designation is expected to strengthen the region's ability to attract conferences and meetings through a more joined-up approach and closer links between business and leisure tourism. The status recognises areas with the ambition and capability to drive growth and provides direct engagement with government, including the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, as well as input into the emerging national Visitor Economy Strategy.

Week ahead

Tuesday 30th June

- Westminster Hall debate on ‘Future of high streets’ put forward by **Gregory Campbell (DUP, East Londonderry)**
- The Economic Affairs Committee will hold a session on ‘Fiscal devolution in England.’ Witnesses include **Dr. Jonathan Carr-West (CEO, Local Government Information Unit)** and **Thomas Pope (Chief Economist, Institute for Government)**.

Wednesday 1st July

- PMQs. **Henham to monitor.**

Thursday 2nd July

- Business and Trade OPQs. **Henham to monitor.**

Media snapshot

More in Common Polling suggests support for rejoining EU.

As part of their ‘Brexit 10 Years On’ report, More in Common [published a poll](#) on sentiment towards the EU showing that 48% of voters in the most Eurosceptic seat in the country, South Basildon and East Thurrock, would want to rejoin the union. More widely, it reported that just 11 of Britain’s 632 constituencies would vote to stay out of the EU today. The findings also found that 4 in 10 Brits think leaving the EU has made their daily lives worse, and the majority think immigration has increased since Brexit happened.

London & Partners faces funding cuts.

London & Partners, the parent of the London Convention Bureau, has [confirmed funding cuts](#) leading to reduced activity and a team restructuring, following earlier cutbacks at VisitEngland and VisitBritain’s business-events function. Despite London being named top Cvent European city for meetings and events for a fourth year, “changes” to the mayor’s office and the Greater London Authority funding of London & Partners are set to see a downsizing of the operation.

Olympia Events secures major multi-year event commitments.

Olympia Events, managed by Legends Global, [has secured](#) new multi-year agreements with three of the UK’s most influential business events – London Tech Week, Big Data LDN and Decorex. Together, these events attract more than 60,000+ attendees annually and represent some of the UK’s most important gatherings for technology, design and innovation.

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

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