

Events Industry Alliance End of Week Report

Friday 28th August

EIA update

- **Parliament returns, the Budget submission approaches, and party conference season begins.**
- **Briefings drafted on the events sector for local politicians at the AEO Conference.**
- **Plans to maximise EIA's attendance at Labour Party Conference are underway.**

Hi all,

With Parliament returning next week, the Budget submission due by early September, and party conference season approaching, we have been busy preparing across all channels.

We are now drafting EIA's submission to the Budget, making the case for the business events sector's role in delivering the Government's growth ambitions and Industrial Strategy objectives, as well as pressing for a dedicated sector strategy. This will also frame any other issues members would like to raise; and we'd like to remind members that if they have concerns or specific asks they would like included in the submission, please contact your relevant director, respond to this email, or get in touch with one of the Henham team. We also understand this will be discussed with members at the AEO Conference next Thursday, and this will be fed into the submission.

Speaking of AEO's conference next week, we are also preparing briefing materials to highlight the local economic impact of the events industry for discussion with Lead Councillor Karen Grinsell and Economy and Business portfolio holder Heather Delaney from Solihull Council.

With Labour Party Conference just over a month away, we are implementing an engagement plan focused on securing the relationships and conversations needed to advance EIA's priorities in government. We are mapping key political stakeholders and identifying conference platforms where EIA can demonstrate the sector's contribution to growth, trade, investment and regional economic development. We hope the conference, as a business event itself, will provide an ideal platform for this – not least because it is being hosted in an EIA member's venue!

Finally, as mentioned over the last few weeks, the team at ESSA has put together a 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 members 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 24th August

- The Government [published a consultation](#) on how new planning powers for mayors in England will operate in practice, including proposals to introduce 'call-in' powers for developments of potential strategic importance. While initially focused on large housing, commercial and tall building schemes,

the proposals signal a broader shift towards greater mayoral control over planning, supported by new tools such as Mayoral Development Orders and a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy to enable strategic infrastructure delivery. Much of this was set out in the English Devolution Act, but it demonstrates an accelerated implementation of the Act.

- Andy Burnham said the UK [should take a more ambitious approach](#) to strengthening ties with the European Union, including closer cooperation on education, culture, defence and security. UK and EU officials are preparing for an autumn summit with Ursula von der Leyen, where agreements on trade alignment and a youth mobility scheme are expected to be finalised. Discussions may involve concessions such as reduced tuition fees for EU students, though the Prime Minister has ruled out rejoining the EU despite previously expressing support for it.

Thursday 27th August

- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [published new research](#) from Ipsos and Nordicity assessing, for the first time, the economic impact of the UK's departure from the EU on touring activity, covering the barriers now facing artists, crews, promoters and venues moving between the UK and the EU. It found that between 2022 and 2024, the UK is estimated to have lost £208.0 million in GVA and 2,490 FTE jobs, with stakeholders reporting that immigration, customs, transport, taxation and social security requirements interact cumulatively to increase costs, complexity and operational uncertainty.

What happened in Parliament

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

Week ahead

Tuesday 1st September

- Both Houses of Parliament return from summer recess

Wednesday 2nd September

- PMQs. **Henham to monitor.**
- The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee holds a session on 'The taxation of the hospitality and tourism sectors'. Witnesses include Gareth Hetherington (**Director of the Economic Policy Centre, Ulster University**) and Michael Cadden (**Chair of Hospitality Ulster**).

Thursday 3rd September

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport OPQs. **Henham to monitor.**

Regional News

Tuesday 25th August

- The London Assembly's Economy, Culture and Skills Committee published a [letter to the Mayor](#) regarding the introduction of the Overnight Visitor Levy in London. It argued that any levy should be justified by its economic impact, with revenues ringfenced to support growth in the visitor economy and accompanied by impact assessments and ongoing review. It also stressed the importance of a

simple, consistent design and strong engagement with businesses during development and implementation.

Media snapshot

Hospitality confidence rises sharply after Government's rates pledge

A new survey, commissioned jointly by the British Beer and Pub Association, British Institute of Innkeeping, UKHospitality and Hospitality Ulster, found confidence in Government policy [more than doubled](#) – from 18% to 37% – following the Prime Minister's announced 20% business rates cut for pubs, clubs and live music venues. The same survey found 76% of operators still cite tax burdens as the biggest barrier to investment.

Proposed tax changes could hit self-employed event freelancers

HM Revenue and Customs [is consulting](#) on moving self-employed workers from annual to more frequent tax payments, which industry bodies warn could add cash flow pressure and administrative complexity for freelancers in seasonal sectors such as events. A government response is due in the autumn, with any legislation not expected to take effect before April 2029.

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

Get in touch

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