

Industry Forum September Newsletter

Working together on the UK's deadly triple challenge

Facing a likely second wave of COVID-19, a severe economic shock, and continued Brexit uncertainty, the UK is short of magic bullets. This affects individuals and businesses, and may even threaten the integrity of the union of the four nations. Hopefully, the government's strategy to deal with these issues will be clearer by October and this will provide an improved foundation for business and economic planning.

At the Labour conference this week, Sir Keir Starmer made clear that the Labour loyal opposition will support all constructive health and economic measures, while keeping a forensic eye on government performance. His first-line lieutenants Angela Rayner, Anneliese Dodds, Ed Miliband and Rachel Reeves are communicating strongly on social, economic, and business issues.

Meanwhile, the Industry Forum has been working with members to help in this difficult period. We have been actively piloting online policy workshops, holding virtual roundtables and discussing emerging priorities with politicians and companies.

In addition to our usual events featuring leading policy-makers, we can now offer members further services in producing focussed policy issues reports, online policy workshops, and bespoke online events.

Our next meeting will be:

Shaping our digital future



30 September

The pandemic has led to an amazing transformation in our use and appreciation of the benefits of digital technologies. New possibilities abound in, for example, education, work, manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare, and these could recharge our damaged economy and provide fresh opportunities for people whose jobs have disappeared. The Labour party is keen to develop policies that can seize such new opportunities while providing safeguards against the significant dangers that the digital environment can bring.

The speakers will be:

Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Digital
Frederique Prevost, Digital Transformation Consultant and Agile Coach

It is clear that multiple shortcomings in PPE and intensive care equipment procurement and supply chain management occurred during the initial wave of the pandemic.

As COVID-19 is resurgent, it is important to learn what went wrong as soon as possible, and so the Industry Forum held a virtual round table, on the topic of 'Lessons in managing procurement and supply chains in an emergency'.

Speakers were: Bill Esterson MP for Sefton Central, Sandeep Goel, Senior VP – Technology, for the fast growing Indian procurement platform Moglix, and Dr. Chris Francis, Director of Government Relations, SAP. SAP operates the major, international ARIBA commercial platform and hosted the meeting.

Many of the problems identified could have been avoided by stronger and better planning and operational control. This would also have enabled the UK health sector to operate more effectively with suppliers and procurement platforms and learn from their expertise and international experience. We may soon know if such lessons have been understood and applied.

New member offer

We are keen to sign up new members to work with us and expand our meetings and research activities. For 2021, we are offering new joiners from September to December the benefit of starting their annual renewal period on 1 January 2021. If you're not already a member and would like to help shape our agenda, host events, and receive invitations to all meetings, get in touch by email at info@industryforum.org, or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.



Copyright © 2020 Industry Forum. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

