

## Industry Forum September Newsletter

### All change, and fasten your safety belts

All has changed in the past year. We now have a new Sovereign, a new Prime Minister, high inflation, a war in Europe, and sky high energy costs. The new, Truss, administration is relying on achieving economic growth by heavy borrowing to control energy costs to users, big tax cuts, Treasury reform, and a reduction in the size of the public sector. This is a clear break with the policies of the past 12 years. Many economists, and possibly the Bank of England, regard it as a gamble which will need good luck to succeed. For the Industry Forum, for businesses, and for policy-makers, it raises many crucial issues about reducing the size of the gamble. Our next three meetings are:

#### *Boosting UK international trade*



*14 November 2022*

***Lead Speaker: Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade***

It is clear that, following Brexit, long-term problems remain in restoring and increasing the UK's share of international trade. The pandemic, the Ukraine/Russia war, supply chain problems and inflation have all added to the problems of importers and exporters alike. The Shadow International Trade Secretary will lead a discussion on policy ideas and industry needs to help the country reach the government international trade target of £1 trillion by 2030. A small industry panel will respond followed by a general Q&A.

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#### *What is the UK role in the Asia-Pacific region?*



*24 October 2022*

***Lead Speaker: Catherine West MP, Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Minister***

Much is happening in the Asia-Pacific region upon which, the UK government is increasingly focused for new diplomatic and trade opportunities. This may mean new trade deals, a more complex relationship with China, new defence alliances like AUKUS, and strengthening relationships with the administrations in Australia and

New Zealand. It is not, however, clear what an increased role for the UK in the Asia-Pacific would actually add up to. In particular what would be its significance, and the benefits to the UK? Australian-born, Shadow FCO Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Catherine West MP, will lead the discussion of such issues. A small panel will respond followed by a general Q&A.

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### ***Building the NHS of the Future***



***tbd November 2022***

***Lead Speaker: Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP, Shadow Mental Health Minister***

The NHS is probably the most loved institution in the UK. It has cared for the country through many health crises. But, like most 75 year olds, it has reached an age where it needs more care itself. Time and budget pressures mean that it usually, only gets short term fixes. This policy roundtable will be led by Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP, Shadow Mental Health Minister, who is an NHS emergency care doctor with first-hand experience of operational problems, as well as policy ideas for the future. A small expert panel will respond, followed by a general discussion of ideas and technology solutions to help the NHS run more seamlessly, for the benefit of patients and NHS staff alike.

Other meetings currently in planning for 2022 and early 2023, include:

- Harnessing the power of artificial intelligence
- The renewable energy transition (possibly several meetings on green energy sources, the energy mix, and financial issues)
- Implications of the changing nature of work for offices, transport, and pensions (possibly several meetings)
- Does the City need Big Bang II?
- Fixing public procurement
- What does the Ukraine/Russia war mean for UK defence industries
- Improving the UK digital infrastructure
- Building a new positive relationship with the EU

These are all major topics which we hope to cover in some depth. We are also keen to talk to members interested in working with us to produce policy action reports. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor and work with us on these or other topics.

In addition to members, we invite diplomats, academics, union representatives and business guests to participate in our meetings.

### ***New members welcome***

The Industry Forum was established in 1993 and has held over 500 meetings since then. It is one of the the most experienced, and well-networked, business policy think tanks in the UK. 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@industry-forum.org](mailto:info@industry-forum.org), or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.



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