

Industry Forum Summer Newsletter

Westminster needs your ideas!

The UK is now outside the EU and the government has opted for financial management of the economy without a formal industrial strategy. This is unfamiliar territory for businesses but is a golden opportunity for policy ideas from outside Westminster. With the pandemic slowed but not stopped, successful innovation is vital to address the key issues of climate change, financing new health and social care services, delivering economic levelling up, upgrading the physical and digital infrastructure, and more.

The Industry Forum, sees this as an opportunity to go beyond dialogue with policy-makers and plans to:

1. Organise policy workshops on key issues affecting businesses and the economy.
2. Publish workshop findings and recommendations where appropriate.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss a policy workshop.

We are taking a cautious view about the safety of 2021 party conferences and will not be organising any events. After the conference season, we hope to gradually reintroduce physical meetings in the Autumn, but will time them so that an online fallback is possible.

Our next three meetings will cover future UK/US trade, helping the UK become a new medicines powerhouse, and our Autumn Statement review of UK economic prospects.

Expanding US/UK trade and commerce



13 October 2021

Speaker: Rosemary Gallant, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy London

Following the departure of the UK from the European Union, and the advent of a new US administration there are opportunities to expand and deepen trade and commerce between the two nations. Rosemary Gallant, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the US London Embassy will lead the discussion.

Can the UK become a new medicines powerhouse?



20 October 2021

Panel discussion: speakers to be confirmed

The UK response to the COVID pandemic has established our global reputation as a scientific leader in life sciences. Key to this success has been the collaborative approach between the scientific community, the pharmaceutical industry, and the NHS. The recently published Life Sciences Vision sets out how the Government intends to build on this to position the UK as the leading global hub for life sciences.

The challenges are to provide the right incentives for companies to work with the scientific community to develop and deliver new drugs and therapies in the UK, and to do this within an affordable budget, while ensuring that patients have access to new and innovative medicines. This policy workshop will look at existing hurdles and how these could be addressed by collaborative planning, streamlining approval procedures, and by new approaches to the access and uptake of new medicines. The expert panel will discuss the key policy initiatives needed and what the benefits might be.

Key economic issues facing the UK for 2022 onwards



3 November 2021

Lead Speaker: Andrew Smith, Chief Economic Adviser, Industry Forum

Towards the end of 2021, the UK will need to address a range of economic issues and clarify its economic strategy. Besides the impact of the pandemic, costly budget items will include transitioning to renewable energy, upgrading the physical and digital infrastructure, increasing expenditure on health and social care, investing in new technologies and more. In his November budget statement, the Chancellor will reveal whether he will follow the George Osborne approach which led to a decade of austerity, or whether he plans to invest for growth. Before then, in this expert seminar, Andrew Smith, Chief Economic Adviser to the Industry Forum, will outline the current position and the options facing the Chancellor before comments from further panel members and a general discussion.

Other meetings currently in planning for 2021/2022, include:

- Hydrogen strategies (to be fully developed when UK strategic plan is published)
- A moonshot effort to tackle the UK dementia pandemic
- How digital technologies can propel the UK economic recovery
- What next after COP26
- Valuing and paying for the NHS
- A post pandemic UK housing policy
- The economics of levelling up
- Would PR be better for UK business?

Please let us know if you would like to work together on these or other topics.

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

Our recent meetings in 2021 have covered: Key issues for pensions and benefits during the recovery from the pandemic; Restoring trust in audit and corporate governance - Will it work?, and Issues and priorities for UK defence. As usual these are topical subjects and showcased Industry Forum members. Our last three meetings are listed below:

Key issues for pensions and benefits during the recovery from the pandemic



17 June 2021

Speaker: Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Chair, Work and Pensions Select Committee

Restoring trust in audit and corporate governance - Will it work?



15 June 2021

Speakers:

Lord Prem Sikka

Martin Webster, Partner, Pinsent Masons

Scott Cormack, Former audit partner, KPMG

Chris Rees, Professor of Employment Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London

Issues and priorities for UK defence



17 May 2021

Speaker: **Rt Hon John Healey MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence

New member offer

We are keen to sign up new members to work with us and expand our meetings and research activities. We are currently offering new joiners a pandemic discount on our usual fees. 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, or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.



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