

Industry Forum April Newsletter

Time for real change

Spring is here, the economy isn't quite in the ditch, and progressive politicians are eager to discuss the changes needed to get the UK economy moving again. At the Industry Forum, we are not economists so we don't believe in invisible hands but we do believe that the UK has a bright future and it is in our own hands to deliver this.

As a trusted business membership organisation, we are delighted that companies and trade associations from many sectors are joining and re-joining the Industry Forum. This means that we can have more meetings and work with members and policy-makers on key policy issues that can unlock the potential of the UK in areas where we have real expertise and opportunities.

Our aim is to contribute to a focussed industrial strategy marrying industry sector strengths with economic realities to build an economy based on good jobs, good opportunities and a well-funded and healthy public sector.

We are expanding our advisory board to work closely with companies and organisations throughout the UK. Please get in touch if you would like to participate.

Our next two events are as follows:

Real solutions to UK housing problems



12 June 2023

Speaker: Matthew Pennycook MP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Planning

As the government focuses on its five core missions, it is clear that long-term problems remain in the provision of adequate housing in the UK. The volume and quality of new housing vary sharply across the country and there are problems in the rented sector, and the provision of social housing. Together, these cause serious inequality and also impact UK economic performance. Matthew Pennycook MP, Shadow Minister for Housing and Planning will lead an Industry Forum roundtable on 'Real solutions to UK housing problems'.

Adjusting to new defence procurement priorities



14 June 2023

Speaker: Chris Evans MP, Shadow Minister for Defence Procurement

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has completely changed the European defence landscape, and UK defence priorities. Providing weapons and munitions to Ukraine and strengthening UK capability in the European theatre will require budget increases and the increased speed and volume of new defence equipment availability. This means that defence equipment manufacturers will need to rapidly increase capacity to supply to Ukraine and countries who wish to increase stocks and modernise equipment. This, in turn, will put pressure on the procurement capabilities of the Ministry of Defence to make good value purchases of reliable equipment with appropriate interoperability and maintenance characteristics. Shadow Minister for Defence Procurement, Chris Evans MP will lead this Industry Forum roundtable on 'Adjusting to new defence procurement priorities.'

Other meetings, currently in planning for 2023, include:

- Policy priorities for the water sector
- Working towards a circular economy
- Building the NHS of the future
- Implications of the changing nature of work for offices, transport, and pensions
- Removing barriers to trade
- Fixing public procurement

- Key transport issues
- Improving the UK digital infrastructure
- Public sector transformation
- Harnessing the power of artificial intelligence
- Building a new positive relationship with Europe

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.

Our most recent Industry Forum meetings have focused on Labour policies:

Delivering Green Power by 2030



1 March 2023

Speaker: Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister for Business and Industry

The climate emergency is the biggest challenge now facing the world and it is clear the Russia/Ukraine war has ended any chance that we will hit the 1.5 degrees target temperature rise agreed in the 2015, Paris Climate Accords. This week, therefore, the Industry Forum invited Bill Esterson MP, and Shadow Business Minister, to lead a roundtable on Labour's climate mission, 'Delivering green UK power by 2030.' The meeting was hosted by BASF UK & Ireland and introduced by Thomas Birk, Managing Director. The wide-ranging discussion covered the need for much more renewable energy, new fuels, energy storage, and a smarter grid. There was close agreement on the vital need for government to set out a clear strategy and show policy consistency on investment and regulatory measures. This would unlock significant business investment for clean energy, green jobs and resource sustainability. Whether this ambitious mission could be completed in six years, if Labour comes to power in 2024, remains to be seen. What is certain is that this mission is understood and welcomed by the business community.

New members welcome

The Industry Forum was established in 1993, and has held over 500 meetings with top policy-makers since then. It is one of 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, or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.



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