

Industry Forum September Newsletter

Exceptional is the new normal

One-hundred-year weather events that bring floods and fires in rapid succession; new diseases that strike with devastating speed and impact; populist forces increasingly influential in national governments; new technologies that offer unprecedented opportunities for benefit or harm: This is the unfamiliar territory in which, as we slowly emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic, not only businesses but the whole of society will need to operate. The implied effect of these four disruptive forces is that business-as-usual and policy-as-usual are no longer viable strategies for survival. The Industry Forum, therefore, intends, in future, to focus not just on improving dialogue between business and political policy makers, but also to look at key emerging issues and strategies for dealing with them. We hope that this will help business and policy makers to take nimble and effective actions, in order to adjust to turbulent times.

We are being cautious about the future safety of physical meetings, but will work with members towards their reintroduction. Our next four meetings will cover the revival of UK manufacturing, future UK/US trade, helping the UK become a new medicines powerhouse, and our Autumn Statement review of UK economic prospects. At present we are planning that the third of these, 'Can the UK become a new medicines powerhouse', will be a physical meeting and the others online.

How can we create a UK manufacturing renaissance?



15 September 2021

Speakers:

Stephen Kinnock MP, Shadow Minister for Asia and the Pacific

James Selka, CEO, Manufacturing Technologies Association

Jennifer Pheasey, Head of Policy, The Society of Motor

Manufacturers and Traders

Robert McIlveen, Director of Public Affairs for the Mineral Products Association

Supply problems during the pandemic have exposed the risk in depending on just-in-time supply from foreign manufacturers. Furthermore, heightened security concerns are discouraging western governments from using some Chinese technology products in vital infrastructure. There is thus a need and an opportunity to expand UK manufacturing both to address these new risks and harness British research, skills and innovations. Stephen Kinnock MP, Shadow Minister for Asia & the Pacific, will lead a discussion about the steps we could take to create a UK manufacturing renaissance to provide more high value jobs, and to increase UK prosperity and security.

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 US and the UK. 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

Speakers:

Anne Marie Morris MP, Chair of the APPG on Access to Medicines and Medical Devices
Nicole Jadeja, Partner, Pinsent Masons

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 collaboration 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 challenge is 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 met with 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. In addition to 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:

- The policy implications of quantum computing
- Addressing the dementia pandemic
- Evaluating hydrogen strategies
- 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 these topics: 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 interested 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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