



Quarterly Briefing

September 2026

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Access All Areas

Following the parliamentary roundtable, hosted by the APPG at Portcullis House, to discuss the development of a more consistent and effective approach to accessibility across the UK events sector, we have now requested a meeting with the Tourism Minister to explore how the industry can move from intention to action and make the events sector more accessible to all.

This follows the recent publication of the landmark Access All Areas: Closing the Accessibility Gap in Events report, commissioned by The Business of Events and ICC Wales, which revealed one in three event delegates identifies as having a disability, yet 93% continue to experience barriers when attending events.

Participants representing the sector at the roundtable agreed that while there is a strong intent to improve accessibility, uncertainty around standards, fear of getting implementation wrong and a lack of consistency are preventing meaningful progress.



“The research has helped to shine a light on the barriers disabled people still face at events, but most importantly, it's provided the evidence and the practical tools needed to create that meaningful change.”

Dr Shani Dhanda

Accessibility Consultant and Disability Inclusion Advocate

The Meetings Show 2026

The Meetings Show 2026, which took place 24-25 June at London Excel, was officially opened by Chair of the APPG for Events, Martin Rhodes MP, who officially opened the 14th edition before meeting some of the 550 exhibitors from across the global events community. This included VisitScotland Business Events, Hilton, Singapore Tourism Board, Lime Venue Portfolio, Visit Cyprus, Imago Venues and The Legends Global.

Reflecting on his visit, Martin said: "It was a privilege to officially open The Meetings Show today and to see first-hand the energy and ambition that defines this industry. The meetings, incentives and events sector makes an enormous contribution to the UK economy, and trade shows like this – bringing together nearly 6,000 professionals and hundreds of exhibitors and destinations from across the globe – are a testament to its reach and resilience.

"As Chair of the APPG Group for Events, I am committed to championing this sector in Parliament and today has only reinforced why that work matters. I look forward to taking the conversations I've had on the show floor back to Westminster."



The Business of Events: Westminster Dinner

APPG Parliamentary members also joined The Business of Events partners at the Annual Westminster Dinner in July, held in the spectacular setting of Spencer House, St James's on the eve of the Policy Forum.

This annual event provided the opportunity for the APPG to connect with leading stakeholders from across the UK business events sector, whilst at the same time experiencing the very best of British food, wine and hospitality.

Janine Leigh-Wood, Managing Director, Spencer House said: "We were delighted to welcome The Business of Events Westminster Dinner to Spencer House. It was a privilege to provide an unforgettable setting for vital conversations shaping the future of the UK business events sector."



The Business of Events: Policy Forum

The APPG was front and centre at The Business of Events 2026 Policy Forum in July, as Martin Rhodes was interviewed on stage by BBC News presenter, Lucy Grey. Martin talked about his support for the sector and answered questions from the audience.

After Tourism Minister Stephanie Peacock MP opened the signature event with a welcome address, BBC Newsnight presenter Nick Watt gave an overview of the current political landscape in Westminster and Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP, also updated the audience on the outcomes of the recent select committee inquiry into business events.



VisitBritain Business Events

With concern around the cuts made by VisitBritain to its business events team, and the withdrawal of the Business Events Growth Programme continuing to dominate conversations across the industry, the APPG has been lobbying both DCMS and VisitBritain on this issue.

Martin Rhodes has sent a letter to Secretary of State at DCMS, Lisa Nandy, urging the cuts to be reversed, and has also written to BTA Chair Harris Bokhari OBE. As a result of this, a meeting has now been scheduled with VisitBritain CEO Patricia Yates.

In addition, a separate joint letter was sent to Lisa Nandy from both The Business of Events and the Events Industry Alliance, and signed by 230 organisations across the business events sector, also urging that the recommendations from the recent Culture, Media & Sport select committee, be implemented in full.



**VISIT
BRITAIN**

Wales Business Events & Economic Growth Roundtable

Following a very successful roundtable in Edinburgh, which was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre earlier this year, planning has now begun to host a Business Events & Economic Growth Roundtable in Wales.

The roundtable will bring together influential voices from across government, industry and destination organisations to create a strategic discussion around the future growth of Wales' business events sector, including the role business events play in driving innovation, collaboration, trade and economic growth.

Held in partnership with Newport City Council and The Celtic Collection, the event will provide an opportunity to better understand sector priorities, strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and identify where collaboration can help support the future growth of Wales' business events economy.



IBTM World: Forum for Advocacy

In partnership with The Business of Events, we are currently looking at hosting a delegation from both the APPG and DCMS to attend IBTM World in Barcelona this November. This will also include attending the IBTM World Forum for Advocacy, which will take place on Monday 16th November 2026.

We see this as a chance for MPs and Ministers to see first-hand the level of competition that exists across the international business events sector. It will also provide an opportunity to meet with many UK destinations and venues, and to show support for the sector.

If anyone would like to join this delegation, please contact the APPG Secretariat on admin@appgevents.org for further details.



APPG for Events Corporate Memberships

As you probably know, since 2024, we have been able to accept a small number of both individual Corporate and Group Memberships to the APPG as non-voting members. Membership gives you the opportunity to attend various events, receive regular briefings on the work of the APPG, and engage directly with Parliamentary members.

INDIVIDUAL
£1,500(+VAT)

UK-based organisations are invited to become individual members by nominating a senior representative.

GROUP
£5,000(+VAT)

Group Membership now also available.

For further information please visit the corporate members page on the APPG website. If you would like to be considered for membership, please click [here](#) to download an application form and submit it to admin@appgevents.org





appgevents.org

Contact: admin@appgevents.org

Disclaimer

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