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- **DIT Business Organisations Trade Group**

Last month the BCC attended the Department for International Trade's Business Organisation Trade Group meeting. Liam Fox has since written to Adam outlining the department's efforts to create a new culture of exporting among UK businesses, and efforts to take a more active role in supporting British consortia to win large and innovative contracts around the world. The letter can be found in the Public Affairs section of the [Knowledge Hub](#).

- **Booking now open for the 2017 [BCC International Trade Summit](#)**

Invite your members to the BCC International Trade Summit 2017. This year's event, taking place in Birmingham on 12 October, is suitable for both businesses who are established exporters and those considering embarking on their global trading journey. The event will give members the opportunity to learn from experienced exporters, take part in breakout sessions on the practical aspects, plus, the opportunity to network with businesses and overseas Chambers.

This year, the BCC is hosting an Annual International Trade Dinner the night before and, for Chamber staff only, the Trade Facilitation Forum on 11 October, taking place at the same venue. We have priced the event packages to be as cost effective as possible. Please visit the International Trade Summit [website](#) for more information.

The second round of marketing materials will be sent to marketing contacts at all Chambers early next week. If you would like to receive this, or you have any general queries about the event, please email [Claire Harding](#).

- **Migration Advisory Committee - Call for Evidence**

The government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the European Union, and also on how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The MAC has published a [call for evidence](#).

There are two actions for chambers:

The MAC is keen to visit regions and speak to businesses so please let us know if you would like to host a focus group.

BCC will be responding to the consultation on behalf of the Network and would welcome your input by 13 October. Please contact [Jane Gratton](#) if you will be doing any work on this issue so that we can include you in our network communications and meetings.

- **Carbon Trust**

The Carbon Trust is launching a £9.2m Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator (IEEA) funded by BEIS. The IEEA aims to lower costs and increase numbers of available energy efficient technologies across all UK industry sectors. Up to 20 projects will be co-funded with grants from £150k-£750k per project. Applications should come from a combination of an industrial company and a technology supplier, but in rare cases they will consider innovations driven by industrial companies. The IEEA Programme is hosting a number of workshops around the country in the coming weeks, further information and to sign up to the events can be found here:

[16 August 2017 – Manchester](#)

[24 August 2017 – London](#)

[7 September 2017 – Glasgow](#)

[13 September 2017 – Birmingham](#)

Institute for Apprenticeships' Peer Reviewers

The Institute for Apprenticeships are seeking to appoint 80 Peer Reviewers who will join a register of independent, third-party experts who will review apprenticeship standards and assessment plans. The Peer Review Register will consist of experts from employers, professional bodies, trade associations, business representative bodies and assessment organisations. Applications from individuals from industry regulatory bodies, academia, and training organisations are also welcomed. Applications are open until 25 August, and more information can be found [here](#).

Lords Inquiry into Higher and Further Education

The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee has launched an inquiry into higher and further education, and vocational training. You can read the call for evidence [here](#) and submit evidence to the Committee [here](#).

The key questions the committee seeks evidence on are:

Is the current structure of post-school education and training, and the way it is financed, appropriate for the modern British economy?

If not, what changes are required to develop a system that meets the needs of enterprise and the labour market, whilst providing value for students and the Government?

Please contact [Jane Gratton](#) for more information.

Supporting younger workers with retirement planning

The Scottish Widows Retirement Report 2017 revealed that 70% of young people are failing to save adequately for retirement. Read how employers can support younger workers [here](#).

BCC national media highlights this week

- BCC's comments on the MPC decision and inflation report were picked up by the Scotsman.
- Adam spoke to the [Mail on Sunday](#) on the importance of increasing engagement between the worlds of business and education.
- Jane Gratton wrote a blog on infrastructure for The Planner.

Economic update

The Bank of England's latest [inflation report](#) downgraded its forecast for UK GDP growth for 2017 to 1.7%, down from 1.9% in their May report. The central bank also downgraded its forecast for 2018 to 1.7%, from 1.6%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 6-2 in favour of keeping interest rates on hold at 0.5%.

[New car registrations](#) in the UK fell by 9.3% in July from a year earlier, the fourth consecutive monthly fall.

For more information, please contact [Suren Thiru](#).

Coming up

- Aug 10** ONS releases trade statistics
- Aug 15** ONS releases inflation statistics
- Aug 16** ONS releases unemployment figures
- Aug 17** BCC publishes QITO Q2 2017
- Oct 12** BCC International Trade Survey
- Nov 30** Chamber Business Awards
- Mar 8** BCC Annual Conference 2018

