

# Weekly policy update from London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

*A round-up of key policy changes from the past seven days – 20 August 2024*

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## *Government meets business organisations on Make Work Pay*

- Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds convened a meeting with trade unions and business leaders to discuss the Government's plans for employment reforms.
- They discussed views on the Employment Rights Bill and wider Plan to Make Work Pay, with the Deputy Prime Minister and Business Secretary looking to gain views from the different organisations.
- The Employment Rights Bill – which will form a key role in delivering the Plan to Make Work Pay – will be introduced within 100 days of entering Government.
- Further engagement is planned to discuss the detail of the Plan to Make Work Pay. Trade union and business representatives will be invited to continue to engagement on the Plan to Make Work Pay via similar meetings, as well as share vital insights via the upcoming consultations.
- As part of its Make Work Pay plan, the Government has committed to:
  - Ban zero hours contracts
  - End fire and rehire
  - Introduce basic rights from day one to parental leave, sick pay, and protection from unfair dismissal
  - Strengthen the collective voice of workers, including through their trade unions, and

Single Enforcement Body to ensure employment rights are upheld

- Changing the remit of the independent Low Pay Commission so it accounts for the cost of living
- Remove age bands, so all adults are entitled to the same minimum wage
- The list of attendees at the meeting can be found [here](#).

### *New consultation on charges for Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels*

- Transport for London (TfL) have launched a public consultation on proposed user charge levels for the Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels.
- The new Silvertown Tunnel will open in 2025, and TfL say that user charges will need to be introduced at both Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels, to help manage traffic and repay the construction costs.
- If paying via TfL Auto-Pay, the proposed rates would be:
  - Off-peak: £1.50 for cars, motorbikes and small vans; £2.50 for large vans; £5.00 for HGVs
  - Peak (defined as 6-10am and 4-7pm, Monday to Friday): £2.50 for motorbikes; £4.00 for cars and small vans; £6.50 for large vans; £10.00 for HGVs
- Exemptions would apply for taxis and blue badge holders, zero-emission capable and wheelchair-accessible private hire vehicles registered with TfL and DVLA-registered minibuses and coaches, as well as staff and patients eligible for the NHS reimbursement scheme.
- This includes:
  - 50% discount for low-income drivers living in east London
  - £1 discount on the standard off-peak charge for small businesses, sole traders and charities registered in host boroughs for at least one year
  - Free cross-river bus and DLR travel to support local residents for at least one year
  - A regular bus shuttle service through the Silvertown Tunnel for cyclists, free for at least one year
- The consultation on charge levels, including discounts and exemptions, runs until **3 September 2024**. LCCI would welcome any views from its members - please get in touch at [policy@londonchamber.co.uk](mailto:policy@londonchamber.co.uk). You can find more information on the consultation [here](#).

Both Houses of Parliament are currently in recess. If you have any queries, please contact the LCCI Policy Team at [policy@londonchamber.co.uk](mailto:policy@londonchamber.co.uk).