

GENERAL & BUSINESS AVIATION STRATEGIC FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 13 October 2021

10:30-12:30

Conference Call via Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

Roger Hopkinson, (RH) - General Aviation Alliance, GAA (Chairman)
Marc Bailey, (MB) - British Business & General Aviation Association
Martin Robinson, (MR) - Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
David Harding, (DH) - Deputy Director, General Aviation, Safety, Skills and CAA, DfT
Rebecca Christie, (RC) - Head of Airspace Modernisation and Resilience, DfT
Sophie O'Sullivan, (SLOS) - Head of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Unit & General Aviation Unit
Jon Round, (JR) - Head of Airspace, ATMs & Aerodromes, CAA
Rob Bishton, (RB) - Director, Safety & Airspace Regulation Group, CAA
Stu Lindsey, (SL) - Head of Airspace Modernisation, CAA Strategy and Policy (CSP) group, CAA
Glenn Bradley, (GB) - Head of Flight Operations, CAA
Phil Dunnington, (PD) - GA Advocate
Ben Banfield, (BB) - Head of Strategy and Engagement, DfT

Apologies: Richard Moriarty, (RM) - Chief Executive, CAA, Jai Nathan, (JN) - Head of General Aviation Policy, Skills & Stakeholders, General Aviation, Skills, Safety and CAA Division, DfT

1. Introduction & apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and with introductions and apologies and welcomed Ben Banfield as the new secretary.
Minutes from the agreed, and forum content for RH to make minor changes ahead of publication.

2. Action Log Review

Research - completed

Action for Sophie on CAP1985 - Sophie to provide update as part of meeting

Item 9 - Neil Winbolt to send out panel - Germain Faulkner circulated panel and action for Sophie to send TOR for meeting

- **Action 116** - To come back to Sophie and Roger - but nothing yet. Want to find someone from ARPAS to represent at the meeting. Attendees are working on an ARPAS representative - managed by the community.
- **Action 118** - action closed
- **Action 123** - closed – remove from Action log
- **Action 124** - strategic pilot training discussion - DH and MR to bring together a group to discuss next steps.
- **Action 125** - Strategic Airfield Network on the agenda for discussion, with follow-up meeting to take place at a later date.
- **Action 131** – EGNOS, BBGA to address directly with DfT – remove action
- **Action 132/3** - closed

3. DfT position and progress

DH provided an update on DfT workstreams:

- **Electronic Conspicuity:** DfT are working closely with the CAA on EC and will make an announcement in due course on next steps with the strategy. We have worked hard with the CAA to ensure GA views have fed in to this.
- **Airfields:** DfT continue to develop the GA Local Planning Authority guidance, and are reviewing feedback and input from stakeholders. We have also agreed with DLUHC how we will communicate the guidance to GA stakeholders and local authorities when it is finalised.
- Findings from two research projects on GA policy issues by York Aviation and Ipsos Mori were published on GOV.UK this summer. DfT is keen to get more feedback from GA stakeholders on the reports to help shape future policy development and to help shape future GA research priorities.
- Continue to work with the CAA's Airfield Advisory Team (AAT) on airfield issues, providing ongoing outreach and support to specific airfields. AAT recently objected to decision affecting Coventry airport and are monitoring the outcomes and implications.

MB commented that need to view through lens of Strategic Airfield Network (SAN). DH advised from a local perspective, linked to the SAN point, it's important to be aware that another nearby airfield, Wellesbourne, is also seen as at risk, so the combined impact could be more significant to local / regional connectivity.

- **Skills:** Aviation Skills Retention Platform (ASRP): we have seen increased registrations, with 88 companies and 964 individuals registered, and over 1024 live vacancies listed. The platform is currently developing to provide further support to people entering aviation careers, with concern around supply chain resilience.
- Good progress on *Reach for the Sky* programme to deliver a skilled, diverse and sustainable workforce fit to seize the opportunities of the future, including work with outreach partners and with the CAA on skills and STEM.
- We have been finalising the recruitment of 12 new Aviation Ambassadors who are outstanding role models and will help support the *Reach for the Sky* programme by championing diversity and social mobility.
- DfT has published research on perceived barriers to entry to careers in aviation and maritime which will help inform our future skills policy.
- **Stakeholders engagement:** A lot of input from BBGA on current DfT consultations (Jet Zero, SAF and Night noise, etc) to ensure these views are fed in.
- Recently published our first GA newsletter, which has been warmly received from members of the community.

GA Advocate update: PD updated on his visit programme, with recent trip to Kemble to see the services they have available, including recycling services and training (aerobatic, etc), with optimism from the owner.

He was recently part of the group that broke the world for number of single-seat balloons in the sky (at Cirencester).

DH added that retaining the same ministers has provided a reinjection of energy and ambition. There is some concern about how quickly the wider aviation sector can ramp up given the significant shift in global travel, and the safety and wider considerations, and the implications for different parts of GA. This is something being closely monitored. DH is also keen to share the Future Aviation strategy/strategic framework at some point, but noted that this will be different to Aviation 2050 and for GA will be largely based on the GA Roadmap.