

CAA stakeholder engagement Draft airspace modernisation strategy

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We are asking for responses to this stakeholder engagement exercise through our dedicated consultation website at:

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/draft-airspace-modernisation-strategy/>

This document is a summary of the online stakeholder engagement exercise, in case you want to print it out or read it offline.



What are we asking?

The purpose of this stakeholder engagement exercise is for the CAA to understand your views on our new draft Airspace Modernisation Strategy which will replace our 2011 [Future Airspace Strategy \(FAS\)](#).

This comprises a draft Airspace Modernisation Strategy document (see CAP1690 at www.caa.co.uk/cap1690) and six questions.



Why is airspace modernisation needed?

Airspace is a crucial part of the UK's infrastructure. It must be maintained and enhanced to provide more choice and value for consumers, through the capacity for airlines to add new flights, reduced flight delays and enhanced global connections that can help boost the UK economy, while continuing to improve safety standards.

In addition to accommodating increasing commercial flights, Military requirements and an active GA sector, the UK's skies are hosting different types of airborne vehicles such as drones. UK airspace will also need to accommodate commercial spaceflight in the future, and other new technologies are constantly emerging.



What is the objective for modernising airspace?

Working together, the Government and the CAA have developed a shared objective for modernising airspace.

This objective states that modernising airspace means changing and developing its structural design, and the operational concepts and technology that are used to fly and manage air traffic.

It states that we want to ensure that airspace capacity is not a constraint on the growth of commercial aviation, with the constraint to growth instead becoming the number of runways or restrictions imposed on the use of those runways by government or planning authorities as a condition of that growth.

Our approach in undertaking this programme is to be transparent, inclusive, and to take into account the needs and views of all airspace users and affected parties, including airports, airlines, communities and General Aviation representatives.



Why have we written a new airspace modernisation strategy?

The Government has tasked the CAA with preparing and maintaining a co-ordinated strategy and plan for the use of UK airspace for air navigation up to 2040, including for the modernisation of the use of such airspace.

The Airspace Modernisation Strategy responds to that requirement. It supersedes and replaces the [Future Airspace Strategy \(FAS\)](#), although many key elements of FAS remain relevant and are included in this new strategy. The new Airspace Modernisation Strategy also needs to take into account:

- a new runway at Heathrow: outlined in the current National Policy Statement
- the need to coordinate multiple different airspace changes
- potential changes arising from government policy reviews, such as more explicit policy on how noise must be considered
- drones
- spaceplanes.

