



Department for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
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Dear Deirdre,

Airspace Change Organising Group

I recently met with Sir Timothy Anderson, Chair of the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) Steering Committee to discuss the role, governance and structure of ACOG.

I am supportive of the work that ACOG is doing to support the creation of a masterplan that coordinates airspace change across the North and South of the UK. I also agree that a ring-fenced team within NATS En-Route PLC (NERL) is the right place for ACOG to sit, overseen by Sir Timothy as Chair and by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) – with the CAA ultimately reporting ACOG's progress to the Secretary of State for Transport.

ACOG should have the following strategic aims, and these should be reflected in Terms of Reference of ACOG and its Steering Committee:

- Create airspace capacity to support the growth of aviation
- Reduce controlled airspace
- Release lower airspace
- Reduce delay for passengers to ensure that they get to their destination on time
- Reduce noise and CO2 emissions

ACOG must also have appropriate representation from all users of airspace. I therefore expect that two additional general aviation representatives will be appointed to the ACOG Steering Committee. Once you have worked with ACOG to consider who would be most effective in this role, I trust you will revert to me for further discussion.

I fully expect that ACOG will engage fully with all stakeholders, including airports, airlines, General Aviation, environmental, and local communities, as it progresses its work. I understand that the CAA and Department for Transport, as co-sponsors of airspace modernisation, have asked ACOG to develop stakeholder engagement plans to this effect.

I understand that you expect to include a licence condition in NERL's Reference Period 3 settlement that requires NERL to create a masterplan for airspace change – supported by ACOG, and to establish and maintain ACOG. Consequently, I would be grateful if you could progress these matters with NERL and ACOG.

Yours ever,



Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT