

Directorate of Airspace Policy

NATMAC Representatives & Non-NATMAC Consultees

11 July 2012

DAP/HarmonisedTAConsultation

CAA CONSULTATIVE LETTER

Dear Colleague,

PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A HARMONISED TRANSITION ALTITUDE OF 18 000 FT IN THE LONDON AND SCOTTISH FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK REPORT

The Civil Aviation Authority issued a consultation document on the 31 January 2012 seeking comments on the policy to introduce a Harmonised Transition Altitude (TA) of 18 000 ft in the London and Scottish Flight Information Regions (FIRs). The aim of the consultation document was to provide the necessary background to enable stakeholders to begin assessment of the merits of the proposal. Although the consultation document also provided much of the necessary detail, work on the development of altimeter setting procedures and a review of the UK Altimeter Setting Regions (ASRs) had not been finalised, but given the timelines associated with the overall proposal, it was considered that formal consultation on the policy should commence without these elements. The consultation closed on 1 May 2012; however, a number of responses were received after the closing date; in the interests of completeness these have been taken into consideration.

Comments from the consultation have been examined in detail by DAP staff, supported by colleagues from the Safety Regulation Group of the CAA. Feedback on the consultation exercise is at Enclosure 1. An electronic version of the Feedback Report is available via the CAA website at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1350&pagetype=90&pageid=12919>

As suggested in the consultation document, the lack of details on the proposed procedures to be employed with a higher harmonised TA will warrant a second period of aviation stakeholder consultation. In addition to the envisaged procedures, the second consultation document will introduce the higher level safety principles to be applied as a consequence of the change. Also, stakeholders will be invited to provide a detailed impact assessment of a higher TA, to include an operational, equipment, manpower and overall cost evaluation. The second consultation is due to commence in late 2012. Comments by consultees on both consultations does and will continue to inform the ongoing work being carried out by the TA Project Team and will subsequently be reflected in the final Regulatory Impact Assessment of the proposal which is expected to be complete by late 2013.

Civil Aviation Authority

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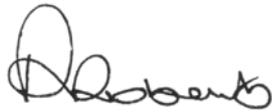
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

If you have any queries, the DAP Focal Point for the TA consultation, Dean Miller, may be contacted on 0207 453 6554, or via e mail to dean.miller@caa.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P ROBERTS
Assistant Director

Enclosure:

1. Feedback Report on the consultation on the Policy to Harmonised the Transition Altitude in the London and Scottish Flight Information Regions at 18 000 ft.