

**Regulatory Policy Group**  
Group Director's Office



The Rt Hon Simon Burns MP  
Minister of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DR

21 November 2012

Dear Minister

**AIRPORT PERFORMANCE FACILITATION GROUP – PROGRESS UPDATE**

You will recall that the South-East Airports Taskforce, which you will be chairing next month when it reconvenes, made a recommendation in 2011 for a package of initiatives for improving airport performance in respect of punctuality, delay and resilience.

On behalf of the CAA, I was asked to chair a cross-industry group to oversee implementation by industry of these initiatives. I therefore established the Airport Performance Facilitation Group (APFG) for this purpose. Like SEAT, APFG is made up of a mix of representatives from Government, industry and other stakeholders, but we extended the invitation out more widely, including to seven other UK airports, in the interests of sharing best practice. APFG first met in September 2011, and has met a further four times since then.

We envisaged that APFG's work would draw to a close at the end of this year. I am therefore writing to you to enclose a report by the CAA on what progress has been made by the Group, and the CAA's plans for how to make further progress.

**Civil Aviation Authority**

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The report sets out:

- a reminder of the SEAT recommendations on punctuality, delay and resilience;
- the CAA's approach in overseeing the implementation of these recommendations, as chair of APFG;
- a progress report on each of the workstreams (operational freedoms, performance charters and capacity management guidelines) identifying what has been achieved so far;
- a progress report on airspace prioritisation, which was added to the APFG agenda after the Group's inception, at the request of industry;
- the CAA's plans for how these initiatives should be taken forward;
- the CAA's plans for the future of APFG.

Overall, there is a positive story to tell. While more could be done, industry stresses that some initiatives remain a work-in-progress. We have taken the view that APFG itself is unlikely to add any further value, and we have made the Group aware that we intend to wind up its activities. As the report explains, we will manage the transfer of any other outstanding issues to new homes as appropriate, and we will continue to oversee the operational freedoms trial at Heathrow.

I hope you find this progress report of interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Osborne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Iain Osborne**