

GENERAL AND BUSINESS AVIATION STRATEGIC FORUM

Thursday 15 November 2018 10:30-12:30
CAA House, London

In attendance:

Roger Hopkinson (RH)	General Aviation Alliance, GAA (Chair)
Martin Robinson (MR)	Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, AOPA
Lindsey Oliver (LO)	British Business & General Aviation Association, BBGA
Byron Davies (BD)	General Aviation Champion
Mike Alcock (MA)	Head of Aviation Safety Strategy, DfT
Susan Watts (SW)	Senior Policy Adviser, General Aviation, DfT
Richard Moriarty (RM)	Chief Executive, CAA
Mark Swan (MS)	Director Safety & Airspace Regulation, CAA
Tony Rapson (TR)	Head of GA Unit, CAA
Laurence Baxter (LB)	GA Policy Officer, CAA (Secretary)

Apologies:

Andy Kirby	GA Strategy and Legislation Team, DfT
Marc Bailey	British Business & General Aviation Association (deputised by Lindsey Oliver)

1. Introduction, Apologies and Chair's Preface

The Chair also welcomed BD to the meeting in his capacity as General Aviation Champion.

Chair's Preface: this compared progress against the DfT 2015 GA strategy and highlighted concerns about the fundamental commitment to the Strategy's stated aim of "meaningful engagement with GA by all Government departments on relevant future policies"¹.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

[Refer to *Minutes GBASF 4Sep2018*]

The minutes from the meeting on 4 September were adopted with one minor amendment. The Forum also decided to trial a shortened version of the Minutes for external consumption.

Action Item 92: Chair/Secretary to trial development of shortened version of minutes of this meeting for wider circulation or publication

3. Review of actions and matters arising

Action 87 *Revisited Strategy Measurement on Commitment for Airspace*: Item carried over to next meeting.

Action 88: *Consider opportunities for Ministerial engagement*: this was a single reminder to the associations. Item closed.

Action 89: *Liaison with Minister's Office regarding possibility of her attending a NATMAC meeting*: due to Ministerial availability, it was decided to aim for the 18 April NATMAC meeting.

Action 90: *Submitting policy paper on GA Flight Instructor qualifications*: paper was submitted by AOPA to DfT on 19 Sep. Item closed.

Action 91: *Circulating to Forum GA Statistics*: slide pack prepared by CAA-GAU was circulated to Forum with September meeting draft minutes. Item closed.

¹ Department for Transport (with AOPA, GA Alliance and BBGA), *General Aviation Strategy*, March 2015, p.9.

4. GA Champion Update

BD gave an update of the GA Champion role which was launched earlier this year.

- a) **Network of airfields project update:** the aim is to examine state of airfields in UK and arrive at a list of “strategically important airfields”.
- b) **APPG progress:** the GA Champion summarised recent activity namely the airspace inquiry; extending aerodrome safeguarding; and the launch event for the Science Technology, Engineering and Maths Working Group.

5. Airspace Update

MS gave a briefing on key developments:

- Airspace Change Processes (ACPs)
- Performance-Based Navigation
- Mid-Air Collision Working Group
- Electronic conspicuity

6. DtT Update

- a) **Brexit update:** MA highlighted a passage related to air traffic management in the Political Declaration that was published on 14 Nov alongside the draft Brexit Withdrawal Agreement and its associated Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement.
- b) **Aviation Strategy update:** the Green Paper will contain deliberately open questions to invite views on topics like strategically important airfields, electronic conspicuity, and airspace.

It was agreed to set up expert group discussions around the theme of sustainability in general aviation with MA’s team particularly, but not exclusively, on skills and technology to address this.

Action Item 93: MA to discuss with MR/RH establishing expert groups on GA skills and technology/drones

7. GA Unit update

- a) **Main areas of activity:** there are 13 live projects and 13 in the pipeline to be activated when there is capacity to move them forward. Some areas to highlight were:
 - Light Aircraft Maintenance Programme conversion to Self-Declared Maintenance Programme
 - PPL Theoretical Knowledge on-line
 - Overflight restriction 1,500kg+ permit to fly aircraft over built-up areas
 - Safety Standards Acknowledgement & Consent
 - Training in permit aircraft
 - 8.33 funding distribution
 - Declared Training Organisation (DTO) rollout
- b) **Brexit preparation for balloons, sailplanes and aircraft maintenance standards:** TR highlighted concerns over the bringing into UK Law, EASA regulations that provide alleviations for GA, in the event of a hard Brexit.

Action Item 94: MA to investigate and report back on a mechanism to bring new EASA regulations, wanted and supported by the UK, into UK law in the event of a hard Brexit.

8. Aviation Services

LO gave an update on apprenticeships & training activities. The slots issue continues to challenge the business aviation market.

9. Strategy Grid Review

[Refer to GBASF Strategy Grid]

- a) **Grid review:** RH has revised and curtailed the Strategy Grid. One new item was highlighted:

Item 11: *GAR Improvement (Home Office) Notification and Counter-Terrorism Bill*: MR has been in discussions with the Home Office in relation to progressing proposals around new regulations and improved technology for GAR submissions with view to wider Forum discussion in 2019.

Action Item 95: MR/RH/MA to liaise with Home Office regarding technology of GAR submissions

The Forum also discussed approaching the Home Office to explore reducing the extended GAR notification period for Ireland and Channel Islands flights without realising unintended consequences.

Action Item 96: RH to provide MA with a brief on Ireland/Channel Island flight GAR notification periods

- b) **Consideration of GBASF topics/discussion:** the Forum discussed the it should play in facilitating stakeholder inputs to various Government/CAA policy decision-making.

10. Annual Report to the Aviation Minister

Action Item 97: RH to agree with Minister's office date for meeting around February

11. Any Other Business

None

Next four meetings

All are at 10.00-12.00, Aviation House, Gatwick, Diner 1: Tue 5 Feb 2019; Tue 7 May; Thur 5 Sep; Thur 14 Nov