

GENERAL AVIATION PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday 26 November 2025 - 14:00-16:00

Via Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Chaired by the CAA General Aviation Unit

GA Organisations represented included:

- BGA
- BHA
- GAA
- GASCo
- BHPA
- FFA
- PPL/IR Europe
- HCGB
- AOPA
- LAA
- BBGA
- RAeS – General Aviation Specialist Group

1. Licensing and Training Simplification Project Update

- CAA presented an update on Wave 1 changes implemented in October 2025, covering ICAO Annex 1 alignment, crediting previous experience, bridging exams for MPPL holders, syllabus updates for moving map devices and partial power failure training.
- Confirmed webinars and CAP 3181 guidance are available online.
- Wave 2 changes will focus on microlight time crediting for CPL modular courses and refresher training standards.

Questions Raised:

- Jeremy James (HCGB): Asked if PMD applies to piston helicopters and whether it will extend to turbines. CAA clarified PMD remains for existing licenses, but initial issue requires Class 2 medical. No plans to extend PMD to turbines.
- Roger Hopkinson (LAA): Raised Brexit impact on recognition of European LAPL licences. CAA noted political constraints but suggested possible crediting options for NPPL in future.

2. Policy Updates

- CAA Policy team explained the PMD loophole allowing instruction without medical certification and plans for rulemaking to restore pre-2021 standards.
- CAA also covered Halon extinguisher phase-out driven by environmental regulations, noting compliance by year-end and guidance published on the CAA website.

Questions Raised:

- Graham Mountford (PPLR/IR): Queried interpretation of regulations for non-TSO fire extinguishers and cost concerns. CAA agreed to confirm interpretation with design certification team and issue written guidance.

- Martin Robinson (AOPA): Asked about approval of low-cost extinguisher solutions and engagement with training community for safety promotion. CAA committed to review options and liaise with SMEs.
- Mike O'Donoghue (GASCo): Requested update on post-season safety roundup meeting. CAA confirmed no session this year, but pre-season forum scheduled for 17 March 2026. An invite will be sent to members in the coming weeks.
- John Gilder: Questioned government stance on aviation policy and funding; concerns about EC technology alignment. CAA acknowledged limited DfT focus but highlighted regulatory reform priorities.

3. GA Strategy Overview and Key Pillars

- Head of GAU outlined the four pillars: proportionate safety standards, reducing regulation and increasing delegation, supporting innovation, and improving service delivery.
- Feedback included calls to explicitly enable GA growth and address maintenance cost concerns.

Questions Raised:

- Roger Hopkinson: Asked about distinction between performance-based regulation and oversight. CAA confirmed both are applied but acknowledged room for improvement.
- Mike Pearson (GA Alliance): Praised continued engagement and strategy publication despite DfT deprioritisation.
- Martin Robinson: Urged inclusion of enabling growth and review of maintenance costs in strategy. CAA agreed to look into whether more could be done to incorporate these points.

4. Communications and Engagement Update

- CAA reported strong engagement with licensing webinars (450 attendees, 1000+ views), upcoming safety forum on 17 March 2026, and plans for enhanced social media outreach and GA podcast revival.
- CAA encouraged associations to share feedback and promote SkyWise subscriptions.

Questions Raised:

- John Gilder: Asked if engagement metrics differentiate active aviators from general enthusiasts. CAA explained segmentation challenges but agreed to explore improvements.
- Martin Robinson: Highlighted need for continued engagement with GASCo as industry safety promoter. CAA confirmed plans for early 2026 meeting with GASCo chair.

5. Any Other Business

- Discussion covered EC technology alignment with European standards (ADS-L vs ADS-B), CAP 1739 balloon event guidance requiring further work, Letters of Agreement compliance costs, and Scheme of Charges consultation open until 22 December 2025.

Questions Raised:

- Graham Mountford: Asked about UK alignment with European EC standards. CAA confirmed update will be provided at next GAP meeting.
- John Gilder: Raised concerns about ADS-B legacy framework and ICAO code allocation for Kent airfield. CAA requested details via email for follow-up.
- Colin Butter: Highlighted incomplete CAP 1739 drafting for balloon events; CAA committed to follow-up and aim for Q1 consultation.
- Mark Shaw (BHPA): Emphasised strong community response to EC consultation and urged continued alignment with stakeholder concerns.