

CAA Environmental Sustainability Panel Meeting Minutes

12th November 2025

Attendees:

Ruth Mallors-Ray, RMR (Chair)
Brian Pearce, BP
Martin Hawley, MH
Alistair Lewis, AL
Anil Namdeo, AN
David Lee, DL
Charlotte Clark, CC
Mark Westwood, MW
Ralitsa Hiteva, RH
Harry Armstrong, HA (CAA)
Lisa Norris, LN (CAA)
Bronwyn Fraser, BF (CAA)
Ben Bouzon, BB (CAA)
Tim Johnson, TJ (CAA)
Rob Toal, RT (CAA)
Youssra Elmagboul, YE (CAA)
Helayna Emms, HE (CAA)
Robyn Burman, RB (CAA)
Marie Tilby, MT (CAA)
Rob Bishton, ROB (CAA)
Sir Stephen Hillier, SSH, (CAA)

1. Chair's Welcome and Update

- **Declarations of interest**

- **Outstanding actions and approval of minutes**

No outstanding actions. Previous meeting minutes approved.

- **Work programme roundtable**

Update briefing provided by CAA H8 Team. CC excused herself from the discussion. The Panel discussed:

- the scope of the CAA's influence on investment choices within the capex envelope it sets, especially given governance lies with Heathrow and the airlines;
- how the CAA can encourage certain behaviours in regulated businesses through service quality incentives;
- approaches to assessment of Heathrow's business cases through a sustainability lens, including using whole lifecycle and systems thinking;
- that it would be desirable to have clarity on the CAA's strategic objectives around sustainability in the price control process, in the context of its powers and duties under the Civil Aviation Act.

2. CAA CEO and Chair

Sir Stephen Hillier (CAA Chair) and Rob Bishton (CAA CEO) joined this month's Panel meeting to hear directly from the panel members on work the Panel is undertaking to support the CAA.

The Panel discussed the paper it is currently producing for the CAA on the science behind contrails, as part of its 2025-2027 work programme.

3. CAA Strategic Overview

TJ provided an update on CAA strategic matters, including its involvement in the Jet Zero Council, government priorities, airspace modernisation and consumer information.

4. ES Overview

HA provided an update on changes to the Sustainability Team.

HA also noted that the CAA will be increasing its focus on climate adaptation, including how its work links to the upcoming DfT Transport Adaptation Strategy.

5. Aviation Environmental Review (AER)

The CAA provided an update on the publication of the AER 2025, which the Panel have been supporting. The Panel recommended an increase in resourcing for the AER as a reflection of its importance as a CAA lever.

6. Space sustainability (CAA Space team)

The CAA Space team provided the Panel with an overview of their remit and work in space sustainability. The Panel discussed:

- The importance of being clear on whether the term 'sustainability' is used in terms of economics or environment;
- The roles and remits of the CAA and the UK Space Agency;
- How the impacts of space debris on the atmosphere are considered, and the rising issue of atmospheric ablation;
- How the Panel could support the CAA in taking scientific issues and research and helping interpret them into policy;
- Whether there is consideration of how space launches may have a wider impact on the environmental impact of commercial air traffic through airspace use;
- How environmental impact assessments of launches are carried out and how the CAA considers the thresholds for significant environmental impacts (currently only a

qualitative assessment framework), including whether the environmental effects of failed launches are measured;

- The current and potential further roles of the CAA in granting licences for launches that meet certain thresholds as part of an environmental impact assessment, including the CAA having a role in collecting data and reporting on the environmental impact of space launches;
- The potential role of the CAA in leading and influencing consideration of the cumulative, rather than individual, environmental impacts of launches on a cumulative.

The CAA Space team agreed to return to the Panel for further discussions once the refreshed Sustainability Strategy has been published and the role of their work within it is clearer.

7. Panel work programme

Annual Report

The Panel agreed to the final version of its Annual Report, which will be published on the CAA website.

Paper for the CAA

The Panel discussed development of a paper on the science of contrails, which it is drafting as a resource for the CAA.

Panel conference planning (January)

As part of its current work programme and commitment to building the CAA's environmental sustainability literacy and knowledge, the Panel will hold an internal conference for CAA colleagues on 27 January 2026. The Panel agreed that the conference will cover the following topics

- SAF and air quality
- The science of contrails
- Market-based measures

Joint meeting with Consumer Panel (15 January) — Sustainability information for consumers

BF discussed aiming for a practical, collaborative session between the two panels on the CAA's role in sustainability information for consumers.