

GENERAL AND BUSINESS AVIATION STRATEGIC FORUM

Tuesday 7 May 2019 10:00-12:00
CAA Aviation House, Gatwick Airport

In attendance:

Roger Hopkinson (RH)	General Aviation Alliance, GAA (Chair)
Martin Robinson (MR)	Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, AOPA
Marc Bailey (MB)	British Business & General Aviation Association, BBGA
Catherine Adams (CA)	Deputy Director, Aviation Strategy & Consumers, DfT
Andy Kirby (AK)	GA Strategy & Legislation Team, DfT
Richard Moriarty (RM)	Chief Executive, CAA
Mark Swan (MS)	Director Safety & Airspace Regulation, CAA
Tony Rapson (TR)	Head of GA Unit, CAA
Rachel Gardner-Poole	Incoming Head of GA Unit, CAA
Ameen Khan (AKh)	Programme Analyst, Portfolio Delivery, CAA
Laurence Baxter (LB)	GA Policy Officer, CAA (Secretary)

Apologies:

Dan Micklethwaite (DM)	Director of Aviation, DfT
Mike Alcock (MA)	Head of Aviation Safety, Consumers and Regulation, DfT

1. Introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed that the only apology was further to an agreement with DfT that CA would be the lead representative. DM would attend on occasions to be advised and that CA would determine the normal attendance of MA & AK going forward.

The Chair also noted that this was TR's last meeting as Head of the CAA General Aviation Unit. He thanked TR for the key role he played in establishing the GA Unit and the significant progress and change he has led in ensuring GA is regulated proportionately. Finally, the Chair welcomed RGP into the Forum as the incoming Head of the General Aviation Unit.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the meeting on 5 February 2019 were adopted. LB tabled the External version which was also adopted with no amendments.

3. Review of actions and matters arising

Action 87 Revisited Strategy Measurement on Commitment for Airspace: It was agreed that the item is to be covered under the Aviation Strategy White Paper Agenda Item below. Item closed.

Action 92: Chair/Secretary to trial shortened version of minutes for wider public dissemination: LB informed that the 15 Nov 2018 minutes are now published on the CAA GA webpage. The Forum discussed the pros and cons of two sets of minutes and it was agreed that only one version be adopted and published.

Action: LB to (a) publish the minutes for February meeting; (b) prepare a single set of minutes for this meeting for publication approval.

Action 93: Mike Alcock (DfT) to discuss with MR/RH establishing expert groups on GA skills and technology/drones: DfT have discussed with the drones and skills teams and stated their preference for bespoke meetings as and when they are required rather than establish a standing group. The first NATMAC drones group met on 2 May so it would be possible could be invited to suggest agenda items.

Action: MS to write to the Chair of the NATMAC Drones group to suggest a GBASF agenda item

Action 94: *MA to investigate and report back on a mechanism to adopt new EASA regulations post-Brexit:* It was not considered appropriate to take this forward given the fluidity over the method and timing of the UK's exit from the EU.

Action 95: *MR/RH/MA to liaise with Home Office regarding technology of GAR submissions:* The Home Office have advised the DfT that the meeting took place on 29 April. It was productive, and a further meeting is planned in September. A report from attending GBASF members would also be welcome.

Action 98: *Discuss with Rebecca Roberts-Hughes regarding Airspace Modernisation Strategy in relation the revisited strategy measurement:* Discussion held on 4 April. Item closed.

Action 99: *Provide Dave Phipps BMFA details for the NATMAC Drone Operators Forum:* Completed and now subsumed into Action Item 93. Item closed.

Action 100: *To set up meeting with RRH and Sarah Bishop (DfT) on Airspace Modernisation Strategy:* Meeting held on 4 April. Item closed.

Action 101: *To explore the possibility of organising an Aviation Strategy Roundtable involving the Minister:* As with the Green Paper, the Minister wishes to consider roundtables nearer to the White Paper's publication.

Action 102: *To pick up discussion and review of the aerodrome network theme:* the DfT will be keen to hear the sector's emerging responses to the General Aviation Champion's proposals. Incorporated into discussion on the Aviation 2050 roundtable on 10 May. Forum to await outcome of that discussion.

Action 103: *To investigate establishing an official's meeting to discuss Aviation Services:* MB had the discussion and agenda is being finalised. Item closed.

Action 104: *To ensure that the Aviation Strategy White Paper reflects the GBASF's current oversight function as set out in Terms of Reference:* the DfT noted that any reference in the White Paper to the Forum would reflect its current terms of reference.

4. Airspace

a) Airspace current developments update:

JR provided an update of the various airspace activities under way. Included was a discussion on the status of Airspace Change Process (ACP) and CAP1122 requests, the latter continue but there is a concern arising about a recurring standards/quality issue of instrument flight procedure applications requiring a reworking due to design issues.

b) Electronic Conspicuity:

The Electronic Conspicuity Call for Evidence opened on 18 March and has received around 200 responses received (mostly from GA stakeholders) ahead of its closure on 25 May. This theme was also raised at the Waddesdon Manor mid-air collision inquest in the context of the merits of See & Avoid. The GA Alliance (GAA) position paper was also discussed, and it was agreed that the CAA would respond directly to GAA on this.

Action 105: JR to ask Stu Wain to write to RH with comments on the GA Alliance position paper

Post meeting note: MS has written to RH, closing this action pending further dialogue.

c) Planned and Permanent Redistribution of Air Traffic Routings (PPR):

JR described the forthcoming PPR consultation (CAP 1786: published 9 May) which sets out how the decision-making process for air traffic units developing certain planned and permanent redistribution of routings within their airspace after October 2019 would be subject to a lighter touch ACP regime. The link to the consultation closes on 7 July 2019 and can be accessed here:

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/ppr-decision-making-process/>

d) CAP1779 SERA Class D Airspace Visibility and Distance from Cloud Minima

JR summarised a consultation which closes on 31 May aiming to bring UK airspace into line with EASA/ICAO standards, culminating in a CAA report and recommendation to DfT. Some Forum members highlighted safety concerns arising from GA aircraft being refused Special Visual Flight Rules clearance through Class D airspace. Stakeholders were advised to raise their concerns in their

response to the consultation that can be accessed here: <https://consultations.caa.co.uk/future-safety/proposed-changes-to-vmc-minima-in-class-d-airspace/>

5. DfT Update

- a) **Brexit:** given the fluidity of the political situation, there was no policy update in this area.
- b) **Aviation Strategy Green Paper/White Paper:** although the deadline for responses involving legislative changes was on 11 April, it was decided to extend the consultation to 20 June. A Green Paper roundtable meeting is being held on 10 May. The White Paper is set for publication later this year though no date has been announced.
- c) **Other DfT matters:**
 - New Aviation Minister Baroness Vere of Norbiton has superseded Baroness Sugg. Whilst the Minister is embedding into her new role, AK asked to be copied into any correspondence to that office.
 - Lucy Chadwick, Director-General International and Security will be superseded shortly by Gareth Davies previously of the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.
 - GA Champion: application process is complete and currently undergoing sifting.

Action Item 106: AK to circulate GA Champion job description

6. Models flying and the Government's drone strategy

The Chair presented Paper 05 outlining serious concerns within the aero modeller community regarding the introduction of Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) registration which would result in aircraft models greater than 250g needing to be registered and comply with other aspects of the regulation. Additionally, the age requirement for SUA Remote Pilots will have a disproportionate effect on under-18 aero modellers if the rule resulted in their exclusion from the activity.

There was significant discussion around the merits of the Government's current policy for registration and the effects on aero modellers. The Aviation Minister replied (Paper 07) to the Chair of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA), summarising the Government's policy intentions as previously set out in their consultation.

Nevertheless, CA confirmed she would take the issues back to the Policy Lead in the DfT for further discussion. AKh confirmed that the CAA was ready and willing to continue discussion with the Aero Modeller community to enable implementation of the Government's policy as set out.

Action Item 107: CA to investigate at DfT further discussion with aero modeller community

7. GA Unit Update

TR focused on two themes in his update:

a) **Flight instructor ratings:**

The GAU has been liaising with EASA to examine the GA Flight Instructor requirements. Although the Part-FCL requirement for the Commercial Pilot's Licence theoretical knowledge would remain in place, EASA is reviewing the practical training syllabus to see if the burden can be reduced.

b) **Delegation of initial issue Permits-to-Fly to the BMAA:**

The CAA and BMAA agreed the latter's internal procedures and Company Exposition revision. The certificate was signed on 23 April and presented formally to BMAA its Microlight Rally on 4 May.

8. Aviation Services update

MB updated the Forum on the general aviation sector apprenticeships activities. Included were mentions of various initiatives such as the STEM jobs and skills group event at Stansted Airport.

9. Strategy Grid Review

There was no discussion about this item.

10. Any Other Business

None.

Next four meetings

Thursday 5 September 10.30-12.30, CAA Westferry House, London

Thursday 24 October 10.30-12.30, DfT, Great Minster House, Horseferry Road, London; with CAA Westferry as a back-up

Tuesday 4 February 2020, 10.30-12.30, CAA Aviation House, Gatwick

Tues 7 July 2020, 10.30-12.30 CAA Westferry House, London