

CAA Environmental and Sustainability Panel Meeting Minutes

10:30 – 15:30 17 January 2025

Attendees

Ruth Mallors-Ray (RMR) - Panel Chair
Alistair Lewis (AL)
Anil Namdeo (AN)
Charlotte Clark (CC)
David Lee (DL)
Mark Westwood (MW)
Martin Hawley (MH)
Tim Johnson (TJ) - CAA, (Item 2)
Harry Armstrong (HA) - CAA, (Items 3, 4 and 6)
David Milford (DM) - CAA, (Item 6)
Elly Shafran (SF) - CAA, (Item 6)
Helayna Emms (HE) - CAA, (Item 6)
Aathavan Suthahar (AS) - CAA, (Item 6)
Chris Malbon (DR) - CAA, (Item 7)
Abigail Grenfell (AG) - CAA
Christopher Keegan (CK) - CAA
Alison Harris - CAA, Panel Support

1. Chair's Welcome and Updates

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Dr Ralista Hetiva, Senior Research Fellow in Science Policy and Innovation, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex as a new Member of the Panel.
- 1.2. Register of Interests – none.
- 1.3. Draft Minutes of last meeting on 7 November were not approved.
- 1.4. Panel Work Programme Dashboard – the Panel noted that there had been collaboration with the Consumer Panel and further areas for collaboration were being explored. The Panel noted the positive feedback from the CAA's Senior Leadership Team to their presentations in November.
- 1.5. Outstanding Actions. Members will continue to forward items of interest to the CAA. The Panel will discuss sustainable growth at the next meeting based on the Economics Foundation Report (HA to circulate). RH noted that growth is always considered in relation to its economic value, rather than a social value and agreed to circulate a paper on this.

2. CAA Strategic Overview

- 2.1. TJ set out the key sustainability issues for the CAA: -
 - The CAA are focusing on the business plans for next year and how to align the strategy with the regulatory charges.
 - CAA union members are taking industrial action in January.
 - The Board has not filled their Non-Executive Director vacancies yet but are still quorate.
 - The Prime Minister wrote to the CAA (and other sector regulators) on the 24 December asking them to set out the actions they will take to support the

Government's growth agenda, with a response required by 16 January. The Panel agreed to support the CAA in its thinking on how best to achieve sustainable growth, for example through guidance on whole life cycles from an environmental sustainability perspective and on the sustainability of lower carbon fuels. The Panel suggested looking at what is being planned internationally to meet environmental targets and also at the Climate change Committee's next Carbon Budget which is due to be published shortly. TJ agreed this would be helpful.

- On airspace modernisation, the CAA are looking at managing capacity and resilience. The Panel are happy to provide guidance to ensure the CAA have a more agile regulatory framework on safety and also from a consumer markets perspective.
- RH questioned whether the CAA is working with other regulators on climate change adaptation measures. TJ said we were working closely with the UK Regulator's Network to understand what other sectors are doing.
- The Panel discussed other international issues, including President Trump's Inauguration and first actions to remove the US from the Paris Agreement, noting how the USA have invested heavily in SAF so far but now seems to be looking more towards conventional fossil fuels.
- TJ thanked the Panel for their enthusiasm; for asking the hard questions and for their contributions.

3. Overview of delivery of CAA Environmental Sustainability Strategy & Panel Impact Summary

- 3.1. HA gave an update on the CAA's Environmental Teams' focus, what is coming up, the deliverables planned, and the timeframes involved in this fiscal year from January 2025 to March 2026.
- 3.2. The Panel thought:
 - The work programme looked good but should include more accountability to track the environmental impacts of the policy decisions. The outcomes of these projects, especially the Aviation Environmental Report (AER) could be used to influence Government to use its levers to drive changes – for example, building health impacts into the debate about balancing sustainability and growth, and challenging aviation's progress in contributing to meeting the Net Zero 2050 target. The CAA could look across the Government's 5 themes to find synergies with other sectors.
 - The CAA has appointed consultants to assist it with systems thinking for sustainability. HA will include some of the Panel members in the forthcoming meetings.
 - The Sustainability Team will be providing a strategic update to the CAA Board in July.

4. Feedback from Panel – Mini Conference with the CAA Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- 4.1. The feedback from the Panel included: -
 - All enjoyed the event and felt it was a good opportunity to talk with the SLT who asked some very good questions. There were a good number of

attendees from across the organisation who were very engaged both during and after the event.

- The Panel agreed to update their biographies on the CAA website to include a sentence on each member's area of expertise and how they can help the CAA to encourage more engagement. This should include the Panel's network with organisations such as DEFRA, EASA and DfT. The biographies could also provide a link to the relevant pages of their published research.
- 4.2. The Panel would like to hold another mini-conference during 2025 with some ideas for improvement:
- Linking personal considerations as well as business consideration to enhance environmental sustainability thinking (in the same way as looking at fire safety in the home has led to better awareness at work).
 - A short pre-meeting with ExCo members.
 - Although unplanned, the lunch session afterwards worked well and should be planned in.
 - Potentially widening the audience to staff who join the Sustainability Portfolio Board and the Sustainability Insight Forum

5. Development of Panel's Work Programme

- 5.1. The Panel discussed its 2025/26 work programme for publication this Spring.
- 5.2. The Work Programme should focus on four separate streams which can be used to assist working on three to five items which can then be embedded into the CAA's work.

6. H8 Consultation Overview

- 6.1. ES gave an update on the Heathrow H8 price review process (to be completed by January 2027 to cover the period up to December 2031), focussing on Heathrow's plans for environmental improvements and targets. The CAA relies heavily on airlines to challenge Heathrow on costs but questioned the Panel on what it needs to consider in challenging Heathrow on the stated environmental benefits.
- 6.2. The Panel suggested that this should have independent scrutiny to consider and verify whether the sustainability elements will affect change. ES suggested that one option might be to set up a similar body to the Independent Fund Surveyor which challenges the capex costs.
- 6.3. The Panel agreed to continue to work with the team on H8 going forward.
- 6.4. The CAA have taken the first step to include a carbon measure as a reputational measure in Heathrow's service quality reporting, based on Heathrow's annual accounts reporting. **ACTION: Economic Regulation team to send the H8 Carbon measure definition to RH**
- 6.5. ES also gave a brief overview of the Gatwick price review (G8) and the NATS price review (PR28).

7. AoB

None.