

Regional, Industry and Government News	Civil Aviation Bill
<p>17 Dec. 2012 - Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announces decision in Aer Lingus Heathrow complaint case</p>	<p>19 Dec. 2012 - The Civil Aviation Act has become law and paves the way for airports to offer better facilities and information for passengers</p>
<p>The CAA has published its decision on a complaint made by Aer Lingus about landing charges for small aircraft and charges on airlines for passengers on domestic and Irish flights at Heathrow Airport.</p>	<p>The new Act sees a number of key changes to the powers and responsibilities of the aviation regulator, the CAA, including: giving the CAA a single overriding duty for its airport economic functions to further the interests of passengers and owners of cargo in the provision of airport operation services; and giving the CAA more effective enforcement powers. The CAA will work to bring the new airport economic regulatory framework fully into force in April 2014.</p>
<p>18 Dec. 2012 - Welsh Government reaches deal to buy Cardiff Airport to bring it into public ownership</p>	<p>Further details on the Civil Aviation Act can be found in an email from the SASIG office sent on 30 Dec. 2012 or on the SASIG website.</p>
<p>The nationalisation of the airport comes after a few years which have seen declining passenger numbers and the loss of a number of key routes. Bristol Airport operators have said that it is seeking assurances that Cardiff Airport will be run on a commercial basis and will not receive subsidies from the Welsh Government; and have also questioned whether the acquisition of a commercial business operating in a highly competitive market is the best use of taxpayers' money.</p>	<p>Publications</p>
<p>18 Dec. 2012 - Heathrow Airport operators expect new larger aircraft such as the Airbus A380 to boost passenger numbers in 2013 following a 10.1% jump in earnings for 2012</p>	<p>18 Dec. 2012 - Institute of Directors report claims London needs three new runways The report 'Flying into the Future', suggests that the majority of respondents (59%) feel that the lack of capacity at Heathrow Airport has an effect on inward investment in the UK and identifies a need to expand London airports.</p>
<p>18 Dec. 2012 - Leeds Bradford Airport owners have opened the £11mn terminal expansion, with a 65% increase in airside space and enhanced commercial facilities</p>	<p>19 Dec. 2012 - The Guild of Travel Management Companies have produced a report, '10 Routes to Growth', to identify the 10 most direct routes to international destinations that business travellers want from Heathrow but are currently being forced to connect via another European hub</p>
<p>19 Dec. 2012 - Government decision on international aviation emissions announced Government will defer a decision on whether to include international aviation emissions in carbon budgets until the setting of the fifth carbon budget in 2016, by which point there should be more clarity on how aviation emissions will be tackled at an EU and global level. Caroline Flint, Shadow Energy and Climate Change Secretary, has issued a press release on the decision.</p>	<p>Consultations</p>
<p>19 Dec. 2012 - Fourth South East England hub airport proposal in Deal in Kent, is unveiled by engineering firm Beckett Rankine</p>	<p>20 Dec. 2012 - The Civil Aviation Authority has published for consultation its latest thinking on whether Stansted Airport should be fully de-regulated from 2014 The consultation is about whether the airport should be subject to economic regulation; it does not cover the type of regulation that any licence would contain, which would be consulted on in 2013.</p>
<p>29 Dec. 2012 - Analysis by the Department for Transport suggests that a 50% rise in air passenger duty at Heathrow and Gatwick would be high enough to persuade passengers to switch to airports like Luton and Stansted</p>	<p>House of Commons Questions</p>
<p>The report, 'Modelling the Effects of Price Differentials at UK Airports', is being studied by several MPs, who are keen for it to be submitted as evidence to the Airports Commission. It suggests that applying different rates of tax at airports would create a better regional balance in passenger numbers and take pressure off Heathrow and Gatwick.</p>	<p>Timetable for the public consultation on operational freedoms at Heathrow Airport (see 'Airports Commission') – Goldsmith, Z – 19 Dec. 2012</p>
	<p>Number of staff employed by the Airports Commission (see "Airports Commission") – Goldsmith, Z - 19 Dec. 2012</p>
	<p>SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates</p>
	<p>The next SASIG meeting will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday 1 March 2013, 11.00am – 1.00pm <p>Meetings are held at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; location map.</p>