

### Government News

10 Dec. 2012- [The Office of Budget Responsibility \(OBR\) has revised down forecasts for UK airline passenger numbers over the next five years](#)  
The anti-Air Passenger Duty (APD) campaign, A Fair Tax on Flying, has claimed the revision is evidence of a negative impact the tax is having on travel demand.

11 Dec. 2012 - [Leading aviation figures call for radical improvements to UK airspace to increase capacity and efficiency, and reduce environmental impacts](#)  
– Civil Aviation Authority

12 Dec. 2012 - [Prime Minister David Cameron has rejected calls to speed up a review of airport in the south east of England](#)  
Mr Cameron said the Airports Commission review into UK airport capacity needed time to, “marshal all the arguments” over whether more runways should be built at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted or a new airport in the Thames Estuary.

### Party Political Press Releases

10 December 2012 - [Henry Smith MP \(Cons; Crawley\) Welcomes Successful Virgin Atlantic Bid As Good News for Crawley](#)

### House of Commons Questions

[Inclusion of Shipping and Aviation Emissions in the UK Carbon Budget](#) - Huppert, J - 13 December 2012 (see ‘Topical Questions’)

[Assessment of the effects on the atmosphere of aeroplane contrails Aviation Exhaust Emissions](#) – Leslie, C - 12 December 2012 (see ‘Environment and Climate Change: Aviation Exhaust Emissions’)

### SASIG Update

Parliamentary recess will commence from 20 Dec. 2012 until 8 Jan. 2013.

### Westminster Committees

10 Dec. 2012 - [Aviation Strategy](#) - Transport Select Committee  
During the inquiry, MPs were told that Heathrow Airport offered the best option for regional airports seeking to increase connectivity to the rest of the world. The Committee heard from:

- Graeme Mason, Planning and Corporate Affairs Director, Newcastle Airport;
- Craig Richmond, Chief Executive Officer, Peel Airports and Regional Executive, Vantage Airport Group;
- Derek Provan, Managing Director, Aberdeen Airport;
- Darren Caplan, Chief Executive, Airport Operators Association

10 Dec. 2012 - [Richard Deakin, Chief Executive Officer of the air traffic management organisation NATS, highlights the importance of airspace in his evidence to the Transport Select Committee Inquiry on Aviation Strategy](#)

Mr Deakin said that the function of airspace was too often overlooked in the debate around future airport capacity in the south east of England, telling MPs that “airports only work with efficient airspace to support them.” Mr Deakin added that a 4-runway airport in the Thames estuary could not co-exist with Heathrow and London City as they operate today.

11 Dec. 2012 - [Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport gives evidence to MPs at the Transport Select Committee’s inquiry into aviation](#)

Appearing alongside other airport operators outside of the south east of England, Mr Kehoe argued that international connectivity is vital for regions across the UK if we are to grow the national economy.

### SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates

The next SASIG meeting will be on:

- Friday 1 March 2013, 11.00am – 1.00pm

Meetings are held at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; [location map](#).