

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: April 2025

SASIG's Aviation news and policy bulletin aims to provide its members and associate members, with a comprehensive overview of what has been happening in Parliament and Whitehall as well as in the sector itself in the preceding month.

Monthly Highlights

- **2 April** – [Court suspends Dublin Airport passenger cap beyond summer](#). Ruling follows referral of key issues to Europe last year.
- **3 April** – Government approves Luton Airport expansion. See [Government press release](#).
- **10 April** - [Government backs £30m investment](#) to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport.
- **25 April** - [London Gatwick has responded to Transport Secretary's letter of 27 February](#) stating she is "minded to grant consent" for the Northern Runway planning application. They say they will accept 'stricter limits' on plane noise. More details on this [here](#).

Potential Actions for LAs

- None this month

SASIG Activities

- Attended Airlines UK/Logistics UK conference on air cargo
- Attended EASE working Group on drones

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SASIG Library Additions

For local authorities in England and Wales who are not members of SASIG but would like access to the Bulletin, please contact us at the address below to inquire about Membership and being added to the circulation list.

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Editorial

April was a little quieter than usual due to the timing of Easter Parliamentary Recess, but some notable highlights are as follows:

On 2 April, the High Court suspended the enforcement of a 32 million a year limit on passengers at Dublin Airport pending the outcome of a legal challenge that has been referred to Europe. The limit, which is related to surface access is acting as a serious constraint to airport growth, with underlying demand estimated to be +34mppa already. Dublin is an important destination and connecting hub from UK regional airports.

Nearer to home, on 3 April, the Government sent out a press release approving the expansion of Luton Airport. The Development Consent Order (DCO) covers the expansion of the airport from its current permitted cap of 18 million passengers up to 32 million per annum, including: new terminal capacity; additional taxiways and other transport infrastructure; the construction of landside support buildings; surface access adjustments; mitigation works and other associated development. There were also a number of questions in Parliament regarding Luton's expansion – see Questions 7, 8 and 9 in the Parliamentary Questions section of this Bulletin.

A few days later (10 April) the Government gave their backing to a £30m investment in the re-opening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport. Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said she supported the South Yorkshire Mayor's decision to invest in critical infrastructure to support the creation of a sustainable aviation hub. The re-opening could see the creation of 5,000 jobs and turbocharge the economy by £5bn by 2050.

Later in the month (25 April), London Gatwick responded to the Transport Secretary's letter of 27 February stating she is "minded to grant consent" for the Northern Runway DCO and requesting feedback on additional conditions recommended by the Planning Inspectorate. In its response the airport said it will accept stricter limits on aircraft noise and has put forward an improved noise insulation scheme for local residents.

In Parliament, Baroness Pidgeon asked Government whether they plan to revise the transport decarbonisation plan. The debate, which includes aviation, can be [seen here](#).

Chris Cain
Policy Director
SASIG

Events, Meetings and Conferences

SASIG Meetings

(To note: resulting from the impact of the pandemic, SASIG meetings are still mostly being held virtually. It is therefore advised to always check with the Secretariat first before making any travel arrangements).

2025

SASIG Chairman's Advisory Group meeting (CAG): Thursday: 5 June 2025 (2 pm)
(To note: for information purposes for CAG members only)

SASIG Members' meeting: Wednesday: 25 June 2025 (10:30 a.m.)

External Conferences: (please note: some date changes may always be possible).

6-8 May 2025: [Sustainable Aviation Futures EU Congress](#), Amsterdam, Netherlands

13-15 May 2025: [Airspace World 2025](#), Lisbon, Portugal

15 May 2025: [Aerospace Live 2025](#): Shaping the Future of UK Aerospace, London

20-22 May 2025: [EBACE 2025](#): Geneva, Switzerland

9-11 July 2025: [1st International Conference on Sustainable Aviation Research](#), Dublin

24-26 September 2025: [Routes World](#), Hong Kong

30 Sept-1 October 2025: [Advanced Air Mobility Expo](#): Excel, London

7-9 October 2025: [World Aviation Festival](#): Lisbon, Portugal

20-24 July 2026: [Farnborough Air Show](#), Farnborough

Consultations Update: Recent and current:

Concluded:

Integrated National Transport Strategy:

28 November 2024: the Transport Secretary introduced the [Integrated National Transport Strategy](#) and followed it up with a [call for ideas](#). Not really anything aviation-related contained therein but still worth noting.

This call for evidence closed on 20 February 2025.

Brownfield Passport: Making the most of Urban Land:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government invited views on a working paper, designed to inform further policy development.

[Brownfield Passport: Making the Most of Urban Land](#) invited views on "action that the Government could take through the planning system to support the development of brownfield land in urban areas."

This is an important consultation and members were invited to note and comment upon SASIG's proposed position set out below and to also write to MHCLG with their own views within the requisite deadline.

Airports, aerodromes and airfields will be regarded by MHCLG as brownfield land and thus potentially an opportunity for re-development. SASIG's position is that:

Unless relevant aviation assets - including spaceports, heliports, approach lighting and radar

facilities) - are clearly life-expired, unsuited for purpose on safety grounds or are no longer in demand for civil aviation use (including prospectively for drone and Advanced Air Mobility operations), they should be safeguarded (along with their approach and departure tracks and relevant safety surfaces) from incompatible development, on the grounds that they are essential infrastructure underpinning the UK's vitally important aviation and aerospace ecosystems.

Policy to this effect needs to be articulated clearly in national guidance and local development plans.

Information was available within the following links:

[Policy Paper](#)

Responses were sought within the following link below and the consultation closed on 28 February 2025:

[Planning Reform Working Paper: Brownfield Passport](#)

[EAC: Call for evidence: Airport Expansion v. Net Zero and Environmental Targets.](#)

On 28 March the Environmental Audit Committee announced it was undertaking an inquiry on airport expansion and climate and nature targets. In this inquiry the Committee sought to:

- establish the climate and environmental targets which Ministers ought to ensure are met under its policy to support airport expansion;
- examine current projections for aviation demand, for aviation emissions and for the reduction of emissions and other negative environmental impacts, through technological developments and other means;
- ascertain what environmental and climate conditions the Government ought to establish for airport developments through the use of planning policy statements, and
- consider how Ministers should seek to maintain aviation's compliance with climate and environmental targets and what policy safeguards might be necessary to achieve this.

The call for evidence giving more information about this inquiry can be read [here](#) and was open until 24 April 2025.

Ongoing:

There are none relevant to SASIG.

Parliamentary and Government News

1 April: (Transport (Duty to Co-operate))

Dr Ben Spencer (Runnymede & Weybridge) beg to move that leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for a duty on transport authorities and other specified persons to cooperate to reduce transport disruption and to ensure the effective operation of transport networks. Aviation was briefly mentioned within [this motion](#).

3 April - Government approves Luton Airport expansion. See [Government press release](#).

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

The House of Commons rose on 8 April for the Easter Recess and returned on 22 April 2025.

28 April: Proposed Visitor Levy

The Secretary of State for Wales was asked whether she has had discussions with the Welsh Government on the potential impact of the proposed visitor levy on the economy in Wales. (903790). Her reply included references to Cardiff Airport and aviation – [see here](#).

Transport Questions: House of Lords

The House of Lords rose on 4 April for the Easter Recess and returned on 21 April 2025.

24 April: Transport Decarbonisation Plan

Baroness Pidgeon asked Government whether they plan to revise the transport decarbonisation plan. The debate may be [seen here](#) and includes aviation.

Parliamentary Questions:

Q.1. Question (43423) asked by Sir John Hayes (South Holland & The Deepings) on 2 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether his Department has held discussions with representatives of Heathrow Airport on energy infrastructure for the airport in the last three years.”

A. Michael Shanks on 11 April 2025: “Details of Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external individuals and organisations are published quarterly in arrears on GOV.UK”.

Q.2. Question (44010) asked by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Slough) on 3 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken any recent work with (a) her Department, (b) Heathrow Airport, (c) Network Rail and (d) others to make progress on the construction of a Western Rail Link to Heathrow”.

A. Mike Kane on 9 April 2025: “Since plans for expansion were paused in 2020, the CAA has not conducted any work in relation to a Western Rail link to Heathrow. Should any such plans emerge as part of fresh proposals for Heathrow expansion, the CAA would review the elements of those plans relevant to its role as economic regulator of Heathrow in accordance with its statutory duties”.

Q.3. Question (44009) asked by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Slough) on 3 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions she has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on their role in delivering economic growth”.

A. Mike Kane on 8 April 2025: "I meet with the Chair and the Chief Executive of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regularly to discuss a range of topics, including the role of the CAA in delivering economic growth. The government's new Action Plan for regulators contains six regulatory pledges from the CAA, alongside the commitments the CAA made in their letter to the Prime Minister in January 2025. The CAA will also play an important role in the planned expansion of Heathrow Airport".

Q.4. Question (43750) asked by Blake Stephenson (Mid Bedfordshire) on 2 April 2025: "To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she has made a recent assessment of the international competitiveness of Air Passenger Duty rates".

A. James Murray on 10 April 2025: "Air Passenger Duty (APD) applies to airlines and is the principal tax on the aviation sector. It is expected to raise £4.2 billion in 2024-25. At Autumn Budget 2024, the Government announced APD rates for 2026-27, including a partial adjustment to help compensate for two recent years of inflation that was higher than expected. APD rates are set in advance using forecasts of inflation, and so with actual inflation being significantly greater than forecast in 2022 and 2023, APD rates fell in real terms. The Government is clear that APD is an appropriate tax that ensures airlines make a fair contribution to the public finances, particularly given that tickets are VAT free and aviation fuel incurs no duty. Other countries also have different forms of aviation taxes. The Government keeps all taxes under review".

Q.5. Question (43055) asked by Jim Shannon (Strangford) on 1 April 2025: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she is taking to improve transport links between Northern Ireland and Great Britain".

A. Simon Lightwood on 7 April 2025: "Whilst transport is devolved, the Department for Transport is committed to enhancing links between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The Department is providing funding for Transport Scotland's feasibility study to explore options to bypass the villages of Springholm and Crocketford on the A75 and is supporting the Windsor Framework to streamline transport and customs processes. The Government is also supporting key aviation routes, including the Public Service Obligation between City of Derry Airport and London Heathrow Airport".

Q.6. Question (44011) asked by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Slough) on 3 April 2025: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on the potential impact of constructing a western rail link to Heathrow airport on the Government's net zero targets".

A. Lilian Greenwood on 11 April 2025: "I am advised that no discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero relating to the construction of a western rail link to Heathrow".

Q.7. Question (45213) asked by Blake Stephenson (Mid Bedfordshire) on 7 April 2025: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Luton Airport expansion on Thameslink services".

A. Simon Lightwood on 28 April 2025: "Luton Airport Parkway station is well served with up to eight Thameslink and two East Midlands Railway trains an hour to and from the station. Most passenger demand for the airport is either in the off-peak period or in the contra-peak direction, when trains are typically less busy. The two train operators for the station, Govia

Thameslink Railway and East Midlands Railway, were involved in the planning process for the airport expansion plans, including in relation to their ability to provide sufficient capacity to meet expected changes in demand”.

Q.8. Question (44560) asked by Daisy Cooper (St Albans) on 7 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of expanding Luton Airport on economic growth; and if she will publish the modelling that underpins that assessment”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: “The full reasons for the Secretary of State’s decision on 3 April 2025 to grant consent to the London Luton Airport Expansion scheme, including assessment of the potential impact of expanding Luton Airport on economic growth, are set out in her decision letter which is published on the Planning Inspectorate’s website. Following the decision to grant consent, there is now a period when applications for judicial review may be made and during that period, I am unable to comment further on the decision”.

Q.9. Question (44559) asked by Daisy Cooper (St Albans) on 7 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, for what reason she announced the expansion of Luton Airport before publishing a climate emissions framework”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: “The Secretary of State’s considerations on the London Luton Airport Expansion scheme are explained in the Decision Letter, published 3 April 2025 on the Planning Inspectorate website, and this sets out the Secretary of States reasoning. Decisions on applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects are taken independently of the timing of policy announcements on other issues. The Honourable Member will understand that following the decision to grant consent, there is now a period when applications for judicial review may be made and during that period, I am unable to comment further on the decision”.

Q.10. Question (44375) asked by John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) on 7 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she has undertaken a health impact assessment on the expansion of Heathrow airport”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: “The government has invited proposals for a third runway at Heathrow to be brought forward by the summer. Once proposals have been received, the government will review the Airports National Policy Statement, which provides the basis for decision making on granting development consent for a new runway at Heathrow. The government has been clear that any airport expansion proposals need to demonstrate that they contribute to economic growth, can be delivered in line with the UK’s legally binding commitments on carbon and meet strict environmental requirements on air quality and noise pollution”.

Q.11. Question (44374) asked by John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) on 7 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what external analysis her Department has commissioned on the potential impact of Heathrow expansion”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: *See answer to Q.10 (44375) above.*

Q.12. Question (44373) asked by John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) on 7 April 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made

of the potential impact of the expansion of Heathrow Airport on the environment”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: *See answer to Q.10 (44375) and Q.11 (44373) above.*

Q.13. Question (44372) asked by John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) on 7 April 2025:

“To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the expansion of Heathrow Airport on economic growth”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 April 2025: *See answer to Q.10 (44375), Q.11 (44373) and Q.12 (44373) above.*

Q.14. Question (44371) asked by John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) on 7 April 2025:

“To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations she received that helped inform the decision to support expansion at Heathrow”.

A. Darren Jones on 28 April 2025: “HM Treasury has received and continues to receive representations from a wide range of stakeholders about Heathrow expansion. These informed the speech supporting expansion in January and continue to inform the Government’s position on Heathrow”.

National and Regional News

1st April - What are the top airports for private jet travel in the UK? Find out [here](#).

1st April - [Echelon Air reveals the future of flight training at London Biggin Hill Airport](#).

1st April - [Heathrow’s boss to be questioned by MPs](#) this week about the airport’s closure for most of a day last month. He will give evidence to the Transport Select Committee.

2nd April – [This interview](#) is with Gatwick’s Security Head where he is talking about airport security challenges and innovation.

2nd April – [MPs told that Heathrow Airport was warned about the "resilience" of its power supply](#) days before a fire which shut down the airport for over a day last month.

2nd April - [Bishop’s Stortford MP visits Stansted Airport](#) to look at airport’s daily operations, its role in the local community and the opportunities it provides for young people through Stansted Airport College.

3rd April – [This article](#) talks about the busiest Boeing 787 routes at London Heathrow.

3rd April - [Jet2 opens 13th UK base](#) with the start of operations from London-Luton Airport.

3rd April - Government approves Luton Airport expansion. See [Government press release](#).

4th April – Read this article on [‘The History & Operations of Birmingham Airport’](#).

4th April – [‘These Air Taxis Could Take You From Heathrow Airport to Central London in Only 8 Minutes’](#). In stark contrast, the same trip can take up to 80 minutes by car.

4th April - [Auto-Cargo unveiled in Coventry](#) as part of project with Innovate UK,, Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles, supply chain giant UPS and East Midlands Airport.

5th April - London City Airport confirms arrival of its largest jet to date – see [here](#).

6th April - [Where Is British Airways Deploying Its Boeing 777-300ERs](#) to this month?

7th April - [Birmingham Airport is investing £10.6 million in infrastructure upgrades](#). The airport is beginning by focusing on improving services for arriving passengers.

7th April - [East Midlands Airport says it is poised to welcome more than 180,000 passengers](#) during the Easter break.

7th April - [Southampton Airport introduce digital assistant to improve passenger experience](#). The AI-driven platform delivers real-time information and helps travellers navigate terminal.

7th April - Jet2 launches first flight from new base at Luton Airport – details [here](#).

9th April – [Potential Easter travel chaos at London Gatwick Airport](#) as workers strike over unpaid pensions and delayed wages.

10th April - [London Gatwick welcomes 16 specialist designers](#) to support their capital investment programme to enhance capacity, resilience and passenger experience.

10th April - [Government backs £30m investment](#) to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

11th April - [Government's Luton airport go-ahead may not aid Gatwick or Heathrow](#).

11th April - Regional and City Airports who operate Bournemouth, Exeter and Norwich Airports, has appointed Steve Lilley to the new role of Commercial Director – [see here](#).

11th April - [Oman Air is doubling daily flights between Muscat and Heathrow starting 26 October 2025](#). Initially operating on Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The route will become fully double-daily by summer 2026.

11th April - [Heathrow's passenger numbers declined by 7.5% year-on-year in March](#). It said 6.2 million people used its 4 terminals last month, compared with 6.7 million in March 2024.

11th April – [Road Haulage Association says reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport will unlock economic potential in region](#). It's keen to work with region to help it do so efficiently.

12th April - [Luton Airport Express connects passengers to Jet2's Summer 2025 routes](#).

14th April - [Stansted rounded-off its busiest ever winter season with 2.31m passengers in March](#). That was 7.5% up on the same month last year and surpassed the previous record for March set in 2024 by more than 127,000 passengers.

15th April - [Weston Aviation establishes its 5th location in the UK and Ireland](#) by partnering with the aether private terminal at Manchester Airport.

15th April – This article claims to list the world's airports where your luggage is most likely to go missing revealed - with a UK airport in top spot – see details [here](#).

16th April - Unifi secures ground handling contract at London Oxford Airport – details [here](#).

16th April - [Over 11,000 flights scheduled at UK airports](#) this Easter weekend.

17th April - Improved security process and new routes: What passengers can expect travelling through London Gatwick this Easter. Details are [here](#).

17th April - [Belfast City Airport](#): 2024 profitability and passenger numbers soar. Turnover up 19% to £28m while number of business and leisure travellers is up 13% to 2.4m.

17th April - [Farnborough Airport voted as Europe's number one Fixed Based Operator in the 2025 Professional Pilot PRASE Survey](#). This marks the airport's 18th year in the top spot.

20th April – This article is titled: '[How to Navigate London Heathrow Airport Like A Pro](#)'.

20th April - What are the longest nonstop Airbus A350 flights out of London Heathrow Airport? [See here](#) for the answers.

21st April – [Data claims to show that Gatwick is the UK's worst airport for flight delays](#), as it continues to suffer from air traffic control disruption.

21st April – [This article](#) is about continuously improving security at London Gatwick Airport.

21st April – [Unifi to become first-ever external company to manage ramp operations/whole airport security at London Oxford airport](#), providing year-round 24/7 support.

22nd April - [London Luton Airport has partnered with rail app Trainline](#) to provide an interactive ticketing experience for passengers looking to arrange onward travel.

22nd April - [Heathrow Airport's deserted Terminal 1 not used for almost a decade](#). It's now used by various emergency services - such as armed police - for training drills.

23rd April - Joint licensing operation at Manchester Airport sees multiple taxis checked and one licence suspended. Details are [here](#).

23rd April - [Heathrow has made dividend payments to shareholders for 1st time in 5 years](#). It said it completed the £250 million transaction on March 7 "as a result of our strong operational and financial performance in 2024".

25th April - [Joint operation by Avon and Somerset Police, DVSA, and licensing officers from several local authorities](#) finds unlicensed and uninsured drivers found working for hire and reward at Bristol Airport. Meanwhile, still at Bristol Airport

25th April - NATS, which has managed ATC at Bristol Airport for 20 years, will continue to do so with the new contract coming into effect in January 2026. Details [here](#).

25th April - [Bosses at Heathrow Airport want to work with Black Country Chamber of Commerce](#). They wish to help them to take advantage of extensive cargo routes offered.

25th April - [Strike averted at East Midlands Airport as pay deal reached](#). Negotiations have secured a two-year pay deal.

25th April - [London Gatwick has responded to Transport Secretary's letter of 27 February](#) stating she is "minded to grant consent" for the Northern Runway planning application. They say they will accept 'stricter limits' on plane noise. More details on this [here](#).

26th April – This article reveals [which is the shortest commercial runway in the UK](#).

27th April – [‘The 10 Most Important Aviation Hubs in the UK And Europe’](#): Heathrow comes out on top.

28th April - [SORA-Mate to launch in UK Market](#): this is an automated SORA risk assessment tool for the UK drone market.

28th April - [Gatwick Airport may ramp up driving fees in move to block cars in favour of public transport](#). This is part of its new strategy to secure approval for a second runway.

29th April – Unions say they stand ready to help deliver welcome in investment in Doncaster Sheffield Airport. See the TUC statement on this [here](#).

29th April - [Thales renews contract with 5-year agreement to continue Flight Inspection Service operations for MoD at Teesside Airport](#), having held lease at the location since 1996.

29th April - [Bristol Airport CEO raises concerns over £205 million investment in Cardiff Airport](#) saying the proposed investment was an "unprecedented subsidy" that represents a "serious lack of transparency."

30th April – Read article titled: [‘London Gatwick Airport’s innovation journey: autonomous tech, robotics and smart airport solutions’](#).

30th April - Advisory body set up for Heathrow cargo redevelopment. Details [here](#).

30th April - [Exeter Airport along with partners](#) stage trial which saw a Boeing 737 passenger aircraft turnaround using ground support equipment powered by green hydrogen.

Other Aviation Industry News

1st April – This item is about an eReport titled: [‘Next-generation baggage operations for a new era of air travel’](#).

1st April – [Research says 203,705 parking spaces across 144 airports in England/Scotland could be fitted with canopies holding solar PV panels](#). If all were used, they could generate 188.4GWh of energy – enough to power 52,340 homes annually.

2nd April - [Farnborough Airport comes top in Aviation International News \(AIN\) Fixed Based Operator \(FBO\) Survey 2025](#). This is for the 19th year in a row.

2nd April - [ACA accredited airports collectively save one million tonnes of CO2](#).

2nd April - [Court suspends Dublin Airport passenger cap beyond summer](#). Ruling follows referral of key issues to Europe last year.

2nd April – Irish Economy Minister confirms funding to ensure the continuation of the flights from the City of Derry Airport to London Heathrow – details are [here](#).

3rd April - [As Luton airport expansion decision is imminently expected](#), NEF analysis published shows domestic tourism spending in Britain falls by £3bn.

3rd April - British Airways expands summer schedule with new routes to Kuala Lumpur and Tbilisi – details [here](#).

4th April - [Cork Airport passenger numbers up 10%](#) as cap hinders growth in Dublin Airport.

4th April – Read article: [‘Electric apron buses on the road to net zero’](#).

4th April - High Court judge has refused permission for Ryanair to appeal the rejection of its challenge to a proposed €200 million cargo underpass at Dublin Airport. Details [here](#).

5th April - [DAA made €1.4m a week from its car parks at Dublin Airport in 2023](#).

6th April – [Find out here](#) what was the shortest Concorde Transatlantic flight.

7th April - [IATA launches directory to support airports’ biometric services](#). It will power a matchmaking service to help airlines identify/offer contactless travel at specific airports.

7th April – This article is titled: [‘How the UK SAF mandate will drive sustainable aviation’](#).

8th April – [Research predicts a check-in free future](#), forecasting travellers will be recognised at every stage of their journey using a single identifier instead of multiple travel documents.

8th April - [Solar farm shows challenge of cutting airport emissions](#). Minister for Transport has officially opened the new solar farm beside Dublin Airport.

9th April – [‘PTE 2025: A defining moment for airports’](#): this article talks about increasing passenger numbers and finding the infrastructure to handle them. More details [here](#).

10th April – Report says aircraft noise at Dublin Airport has been estimated to have a human “health cost” of almost €800 million and cause cardiovascular issues for nearly 17,000 people living in its vicinity. Details are [here](#).

10th April – An interesting article titled: ‘Elevating aviation’s future’ can be read [here](#).

11th April - [European Union Aviation Safety Agency has launched 2 initiatives](#) to help prevent mid-air collisions in general aviation through improved aircraft visibility technology.

11th April - Major flight shake-up raises security concerns after boarding passes and check-in could be scrapped. More details on this are [here](#).

12th April – [Rail expert says Glasgow Airport 'will eventually close' with flights focused on Edinburgh](#). He says this will be when high-speed rail reaches Scotland.

13th April - [Aer Lingus launches its longest ever narrowbody route](#). It will be between Dublin and Nashville, U.S. with a flight time of 8 hours and 20 minutes.

14th April - Global airport rankings reveal resilience as major hubs grow passenger numbers and reclaim top positions – see [here](#).

14th April – [Read this Q&A session](#) with Glenn Hogben, CEO, The Air Charter Association.

14th April – This article is titled: [‘Why Airport Cyberattacks Are So Dangerous’](#).

15th April - [The top 10 busiest airports in the world by passenger numbers](#) – Heathrow is 5th.

16th April - [New bus route to connect four cities with Glasgow Airport](#). From April 17, eight daily services will connect Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Stirling and Glasgow Airport.

16th April - [Aberdeen International Airport launches AI assistant to improve passenger journeys and reduce pressure on staff](#). The digital assistant is called ‘Hello Aberdeen’.

17th April - [European airports may have to reduce passenger numbers by the 2060s](#) due to rising temperatures due to climate change. Further details on this report can be read [here](#).

17th April - [Istanbul Airport becomes first in Europe to launch triple independent runway operations system](#). This means that three scheduled flights may take off simultaneously.

17th April - [Record 41 million passengers used Irish airports in 2024](#). This is according to new figures from the Central Statistics Office.

18th April - [CCPC launches full probe of Dublin Airport hotels merger](#). Says it's 'needed to establish whether or not the proposed transaction will result in a substantial lessening of competition in the State'. Meanwhile, also at Dublin...

18th April - [Dublin airport park-and-fly operator legally challenges An Bord Pleanála decision](#) turning down their plans to keep using its 248-space car park near airport.

18th April - [Economy Minister announces her department has assumed responsibility for providing annual operating funding of up to £3m](#) for City of Derry Airport from 1 April.

19th April - This article asks '[Are There Any Airbus A318s Still Flying?](#)'

20th April - [Read here](#) about what happens if planes taxi too slow?

21st April - [Cork Airport MD says](#) the airport is ready for next step of development to begin.

21st April - [Data shows that flights at Edinburgh airport have become more punctual](#) despite passenger numbers growing to record levels.

21st April - UK's 30 busiest international routes with over 1 million passengers – [see here](#).

22nd April - [What is Europe's busiest airport?](#) Based on seat capacity data for the year of 2024, OAG have listed the top 10 airports in Europe. Heathrow comes out as No. 1.

23rd April - [See here](#) a guide to British Airways' fleet in 2025.

23rd April - [Glasgow Airport announces 'comprehensive transformation' of terminal](#). This will be as part of a £350m improvements package for the 3 airports owned by AGS group.

23rd April - [Work is to get underway on a £1.3 million project](#) to resurface the runway and apron at Shetland's Tingwall Airport.

24th April - This article is titled: '[NATS on drone integration into airspace](#)'. Meanwhile, still with drones....

24th April - [AtkinsRéalis' will assess flightworthiness of drone designs across various sectors](#), to see whether commercial operators and designers comply with CAA requirements.

25th April - This article is titled: '[The ongoing greening of airport IT](#)'.

25th April - Arriva proposes new direct rail service from Newcastle to Brighton via Gatwick Airport – [see here](#) for details.

25th April - [Edinburgh Airport announce](#) that United Airlines is to extend its seasonal service between Edinburgh and Washington DC to virtually year-round.

25th April - This article is titled: '[Drone detection: more important than ever](#)'.

26th April - Read [here](#) about the airlines that operate the busiest 1-stop routes at UK airports.

27th April - You might like a good idea of [where exactly your bag goes after check-in](#).

28th April - [This article](#) discusses how does the industry ensure sustainable expansion when growing airport operations?

28th April - [New study finds emissions from European airlines soar to pre-Covid levels](#).

28th April - [Airports face financial challenges despite traffic growth](#), says ACI International.

29th April - [Belfast International Airport and Visit Belfast partner up](#) in a way designed to boost tourism, support investment and enhance the visitor experience.

29th April - This article is titled: '[Regional airports call for EU backing](#)'.

29th April - [Fingal says daa acted inappropriately](#) over passenger cap planning process.

30th April - [Project team appointed for Oban Airport Business Park build](#). The project aims to deliver infrastructure to enable a fully accessible Oban Airport Business Park.

30th April - [Travellers through Edinburgh Airport can now keep liquids and large electricals in their bags](#), following completion of £24m project to install new security scanners.

30th April - Turnover at Shannon Airport Group increases 7.6% to €73.1m. Details [here](#).

SASIG Library Additions

The following papers from the End user Advancement and Sharing Exchange (Ease: the national drone end user group), workshop held on 23 April are now on our website:

- Pathways Forward and Return on Investment (ROI) - Depart for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Ease Spring 25 Paper P1
- Ease Spring 25 Paper P2

Also added to the Library this month are:

- Full UK AAM Potential: Electric Aviation Maven Ltd (EA Maven)
- EA Maven RABA Dashboard Introduction

and also:

- AMEC: Assessing the Impact of Future of Flying (DfT-Innovate UK)