

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: July 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 July** – Final report issued from the review into the North Hyde Substation outage which caused shutdown of Heathrow last March. See [here](#) and [here](#) for details.
- **8 July** - The [Transport Secretary tells air passengers to assume 100ml limit on liquids in hand luggage remains in place](#) despite 2 airports (Edinburgh and Birmingham) changing their policies.
- **11 July** – [Heathrow presents plans for next 5-year period to CAA](#) saying mini expansion could add 10 million passengers by 2031.
- **13 July** – [Small plane crashes at London Southend Airport](#). Airport accident involves Dutch King Air operator Zeus and airport closed until further notice.
- **21 July** - [Vertical Aerospace Makes World's First Airport-to-Airport eVTOL Flight](#).
- **22 July** - [Newcastle Airport publishes 15-year masterplan for consultation](#) and prepares for nine million passengers by 2040.
- **23 July** - [Heathrow to submit third runway plan this month](#).
- **23 July** - Leeds Bradford Airport loses appeal for nighttime flights – details are [here](#).
- **30 July** - Major UK airports ground flights over radar issues – see [here](#) for details.

Potential Actions for LAs

- Review Heathrow Quinquennial review proposals – this will have a major impact on what happens at the airport over the next five years.
- See the proposals submitted by Heathrow Airport Ltd and others for expansion of the airport.
- Note changes to DfT personnel and timescale for the updated Aviation National Policy Statement.

SASIG Activities

- Attended CAA Environmental Information Forum.
- Discussion held with DfT officials on restructuring of Aviation Directorate.
- Commented on Noise Action Plans Review Study pre-publication draft and on Night Noise Economic Study Brief.

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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

Quite a busy month before the summer Parliament recess so here is a summary of the key points of note:

2 July saw the final report issued from the review into the North Hyde Substation outage which caused Heathrow to shut down last March. A 'catastrophic failure on one of the transformer's high voltage bushings' was given as the likely cause. The airport is now considering taking legal action against National Grid as it was a 'known fault' at the electrical substation. Heathrow chief executive Thomas Woldbye also admitted that it was "frustrating" that he had slept through numerous calls during the substation fire that led to the airport's closure.

Still with Heathrow, this month it presented its plans for the next 5-year period to the CAA saying mini expansion could add 10 million passengers by 2031 as long as it can increase airline charges. This will not please the airlines who already believe Heathrow is one of the most expensive airports in the world and they would like the regulator to decrease charges instead. A separate proposal for long-term capacity expansion, principally from the addition of a third runway, was submitted to the UK Government on 30th July, and if approved could be operational by 2035. It is though alternative proposals for expanding Heathrow were also submitted by third parties.

The Transport Secretary has told air passengers to assume the 100ml limit on liquids in hand luggage remains in place despite some airports acquiring new scanners which allows bottles of up to two litres to be taken on board planes. Many airports around the UK are at different stages of putting the technology in place that would mean the near 20-year-old rule on liquids could be relaxed.

This month (13th) saw a small plane crash at London Southend Airport. Big (such as the crash in India last month) or small, it is a reminder of the constant need for vigilance about safety, in what remains a dangerous industry when failures (mechanical, procedural or human) happen.

In other news, Newcastle Airport published its 15-year masterplan for consultation as it prepares for 9 million passengers by 2040. This will mean, amongst other changes, extending the runway and the terminal plus adding more aircraft stands.

On the 16 July, the world's first piloted airport-to-airport flight using a full-scale, winged tilt-rotor electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed for commercial use, was completed when it flew from Cotswold Airport to RAF Fairford. This showcases the potential of electric aviation marking a significant step toward sustainable, innovative air travel.

On 23 July, Leeds Bradford Airport lost its appeal for nighttime flights. The airport is currently 'reviewing the outcomes' of its failed applications whilst campaigners against the proposals, are, celebrating.

Lots of aviation-related Parliamentary questions this month despite it being a 'short' month as Parliament headed into its recess for the summer break. There are far too many to list here so please take the opportunity to review the ones included in our Parliamentary Questions section of the Bulletin. Of particular interest are those asking the Transport Secretary what her planned timetable is for the revision of the National Policy Statement on airport expansion. The Government has stated that it supports airport expansion but that it must be delivered in line with the UK's legal, climate and environmental obligations. Also of note are questions relating to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and very importantly, regional connectivity such as Q. No. 68669 asked by Ben Maguire (North Cornwall) on 16 July 2025.

This month saw some changes within the DfT's Noise Policy team. The team is moving to a new division which brings together all environmental issues including decarbonisation and air quality. This division is led by Joe Delafield, although day-to-day contact on noise policy will remain with Tim May, Head of Noise Policy, and Adrian Eaton who has replaced Ian Greene as Noise Policy Lead.

Finally, on 30th, we saw flights in and out of major UK airports grounded over radar issues, causing travel chaos across the country. Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Luton and Birmingham were all affected as a result of a technical issue at NATS Swanwick air traffic control centre. Shades of nearly two years ago, when more than 700,000 passengers suffered disruption when flights were grounded at UK airports by a similar ATC issue.

So, on that note: happy holidays to anyone setting out on theirs and best wishes with your travels!

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

Chairman's Advisory Group meeting (CAG)

Thursday: 18 September 2025 – (10-12:30)

(To note: for information purposes for CAG members only)

SASIG Members' meeting:

Wednesday: 15 October 2025 (online: 10-2pm)

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

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
19-20 November 2025: [International Airport Summit](#), Berlin
17-20 May 2026: [Routes Europe](#), Rimini, Italy
20-24 July 2026: [Farnborough Air Show](#), Farnborough

Consultations Update: Recent and current:

Recent:

[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.

[Civil Aviation Regulatory Safety Framework](#)

On 20 June 2025, the DfT launched a consultation to gather views from stakeholders on the [aviation safety regulatory framework](#) and potential options for reform. A wide range of stakeholders would be interested in the important issues presented in this document and the related consultation and the DfT welcomes responses from all stakeholders who are regulated under aviation safety legislation. They invited stakeholders to provide responses to the questions set out, share their views on potential future approaches to aviation safety regulation, and/or to provide views on any issue relevant to the effective operation of the UK's framework for aviation safety regulation.

[Stakeholders could access the consultation here.](#)

This consultation closed on 25 July 2025.

Ongoing:

There are none relevant to SASIG.

Parliamentary and Government News

1 July: NATS Technical Failure of August 2023: CAA Report

The CAA today published a report on the progress made in relation to the 34 recommendations that were made in the independent review's final report into the NATS technical IT failure of August 2023. [See here](#) for details.

2 July – Heathrow Substation Outage: NESO Review

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero made a statement on the publication of the report from the National Energy System Operator following its review into the fire at the North Hyde substation on 20 March. NESO's review was commissioned jointly by the Energy Secretary and Ofgem in the immediate aftermath of the fire, which disrupted power supply to over 70,000 customers, including, of course, Heathrow airport, which closed operations on 21 March. See the statement [here](#).

8 July - Heathrow Substation Outage: NESO Review

The statement given in HOC on 2 July was repeated and discussed in the House of Lords – see [here](#).

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

The House rose on 22 July for the Summer Recess and will return on 1 September.

15 July: [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill \(First sitting\)](#) debated today along with the [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill \(Second sitting\)](#). Both are quite lengthy debates.

17 July: [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill \(Third sitting\)](#) debated today along with the [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill \(Fourth sitting\)](#). Once again, quite lengthy debates.

Transport Questions: House of Lords

The House rose on 24 July for the Summer Recess and will return on 1 September.

14 July: [Transport Act 2000 \(Air Traffic Services\) \(Prescribed Terms\) Regulations 2025](#).

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill asked That the Grand Committee do consider the Transport Act 2000 (Air Traffic Services) (Prescribed Terms) Regulations 2025.

17 July: [Transport Act 2000 \(Air Traffic Services\) \(Prescribed Terms\) Regulations 2025](#).

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill asked that the draft Regulations laid before the House on 3 June be approved.

Parliamentary Questions:

The answers to these questions can be found in the online version of this newsletter [here](#).

Q.1. Question (63993) asked by Andrew Rosindell (Romford) on 1 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises in procurement processes related to the development and supply of sustainable aviation fuel”.

A. Sarah Jones on 4 July 2025: “My Department supports SME participation in innovative sectors such as sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) through the Business Growth Service. This makes it easier for businesses to get advice and support they need and later this year, we will publish a SME Strategy Paper to promote inclusive supply chains and easier access to finance.

The SAF Mandate sets targets for SAF uptake and creates new market opportunities. To support SAF production, the Department for Transport has launched the Advanced Fuels Fund (AFF). The AFF funding is allocated through a competitive process and is available to a range of entities, including SMEs and start-ups”.

Q.2. Question (63994) asked by Andrew Rosindell (Romford) on 1 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the impact of regulation on small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the development and deployment of sustainable aviation fuel; and whether she plans to simplify relevant processes”.

A. Mike Kane on 4 July 2025: “I refer the hon Member to the answer I gave on 23/06/2025, to Question [UIN 60297](#)”.

Q.3. Question (65013) asked by Blake Stephenson (Mid Bedfordshire) on 4 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of amending the waste hierarchy to encourage councils to assign more black bin waste to the production of sustainable aviation fuels”.

A. Mary Creagh on 8 July 2025: “I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falkirk on 8 May 2025 to Question [49143](#)”.

Q.4. Question (64090) asked by Kevin Hollinrake (Thirsk & Malton) on 1 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2025 to Question 57460 on Policy, what her planned timetable is for the revision of the National Policy Statement on airport expansion”.

A. Mike Kane on 7 July 2025: “The government supports airport expansion and has invited proposals for a third runway at Heathrow. It expects any proposals to be brought forward by the summer and is clear that any scheme must be delivered in line with the UK’s legal, climate and environmental obligations. Once proposals have been received, the government will review the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which provides the basis for decision making on granting development consent for a new runway at Heathrow. The Secretary of State will determine the scope of a review of the ANPS and we cannot speculate on the scope nor the timings of the review at this stage”.

Q.5. Question (65836) asked by Sarah Olney (Richmond) on 8 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department has had discussions with Heathrow Airport on flights being held in a holding pattern over residents' houses between 5:30-6:00am”.

A. Mike Kane on 14 July 2025: “NATS is responsible for providing air traffic services at Heathrow Airport. There are defined flight routes and procedures for aircraft landing at Heathrow but for operational and safety reasons aircraft may be held in a holding pattern prior to landing. These reasons can include the need to ensure safe separation between aircraft as well as weather conditions”.

Q.6. Question (65262) asked by Jim Shannon (Strangford) on 7 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps her Department is taking to support the aviation sector”.

A. Mike Kane on 11 July 2025: “This Government has shown that it will support the UK aviation sector by backing airport expansions that promote economic growth while meeting climate and environmental standards, as well as ending years of uncertainty by inviting proposals for a third runway at Heathrow.

We have introduced a package of measures to encourage the production and use of homegrown Sustainable Aviation Fuel, positioning the UK as a world leading destination for this new market. The new revenue certainty mechanism will provide a price guarantee for SAF producers that will boost jobs across the country. This delivers on the UK’s clean energy and growth missions.

We have also recently announced the go ahead for the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) which will improve confidence in the delivery of airspace modernisation in the UK, fulfilling a key manifesto commitment to enable quicker, quieter and cleaner flights”.

Q.7. Question (66031) asked by Kirsteen Sullivan (Bathgate & Linlithgow) on 8 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department plans to take steps to prevent aviation fuel suppliers from charging compliance risk premiums to mandated volumes of sustainable aviation fuel”.

A. Mike Kane on 11 July 2025: “We recognise that SAF is more expensive than jet fuel. This is why the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Mandate has been designed to protect against excessive costs. The SAF Mandate also has a built-in review process so the Government can take action to change scheme parameters if necessary. The pricing of SAF are commercial decisions for the market though we are working to further understand interactions between the SAF Mandate and SAF pricing. We are engaging with relevant stakeholders – including airports, airlines, fuel suppliers and trade associations to do this”.

Q.8. Question (HL9412) asked by Lord Jamieson on 14 July 2025: “To ask His Majesty’s Government, with reference to Appendix 2, page 61, Annex 1: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects reform, of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill: Impact assessment (published May 2025) Appendix 2, page 61, and the November 2027 target date for the updated Airports National Policy Statement, whether they anticipate that the infrastructure planning application for the Heathrow Airport expansion can be submitted before the publication and ratification of the revised Airports National Policy Statement”.

A. Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill on 23 July 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 in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. When the ANPS has been reviewed, and depending on the outcome of the review, it will be for scheme promoters to decide when to submit a Development Consent Order application for a third runway scheme”.

Q.9. Question (67786) asked by John Milne (Horsham) on 14 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will ask Gatwick Airport to publish an assessment of the potential impact of a second runway on levels of emissions other than carbon dioxide”.

A. Mike Kane on 14 July 2025: “The application for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Development Consent Order, submitted by Gatwick Airport Limited, is currently with the Secretary of State for a decision, with a statutory deadline of the 27 October 2025. The Examining Authority, in its 6-month Examination conducted last year, held several public hearings on the issues of noise and surface transport, providing Interested Parties with the opportunity to present their views. There is no mechanism within the Planning Act 2008 to conduct a public hearing at the decision stage.

The Secretary of State has consulted on several matters during the decision stage and may request further information from Gatwick Airport or Interested Parties, if she is not satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to take a decision. Interested Parties can provide further representations to the Secretary of State, which will be taken into consideration. All information regarding this application can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website”.

Q.10. Question (67783) asked by John Milne (Horsham) on 14 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will hold a consultation on the development consent order for the expansion of Gatwick Airport before deciding whether to approve it”.

A. Mike Kane on 17 July 2025: “The application for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Development Consent Order, submitted by Gatwick Airport Limited, is currently with the Secretary of State for a decision, with a statutory deadline of the 27 October 2025. The Examining Authority, in its 6-month Examination conducted last year, held several public hearings on the issues of noise and surface transport, providing Interested Parties with the opportunity to present their views. There is no mechanism within the Planning Act 2008 to conduct a public hearing at the decision stage.

The Secretary of State has consulted on several matters during the decision stage and may request further information from Gatwick Airport or Interested Parties, if she is not satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to take a decision. Interested Parties can provide further representations to the Secretary of State, which will be taken into consideration. All information regarding this application can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website”.

Q.11. Question (67744) asked by Vikki Slade (Mid-Dorset & Nth Poole) on 14 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to impose (a) quotas and (b) no-flying times at night at (a) Bournemouth International Airport and (b) other regional airports”.

A. Mike Kane on 21 July 2025: “The Government only sets noise-related restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. At all other airports, including Bournemouth,

flight restrictions are set through the planning system and not by the Government. It is the responsibility of the relevant local planning authority to conduct any necessary noise assessments and to enforce any restrictions”.

Q.12. Question (67387) asked by Kevin Hollinrake (Thirsk & Malton) on 14 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to seek Parliamentary approval for the revised Airports National Policy Statement before submitting the infrastructure planning application for Heathrow Airport expansion”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 July 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. When conducting the review, the Secretary of State will comply with the requirements in the Planning Act 2008, including consultation, publicity and parliamentary requirements.

When the ANPS has been reviewed, and depending on the outcome of the review, it will be for scheme promoters to submit a Development Consent Order application for a third runway scheme”.

Q.13. Question (68730) asked by Andrew Rosindell (Romford) on 17 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she has taken to improve aviation interconnectivity between the four nations of the UK”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 July 2025: “Airports serve our local communities by supporting thousands of jobs in the regions and acting as a gateway to international opportunities, alongside maintaining social and family ties and strengthening the bonds between the four nations. The Government supports connectivity across the union through our joint-funding of three Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes into London from Newquay, Dundee and Derry/Londonderry. Furthermore, the Aviation Futures Forum, which I Co-Chair, has agreed to establish a number of working groups including one on Regional Aviation. The Group will report back to the Forum in due course”.

Q.14. Question (68458) asked by Sarah Olney (Richmond Park) on 16 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to Table 9.2 of her Department's report entitled Updated Appraisal Report: Airport Capacity in the South East, published in October 2017, whether it remains her Department's estimate that the net present value of a Heathrow northwest runway has a high of £3.3billion and a low of minus £2.2billion”.

A. Mike Kane on 22 July 2025: “The latest published information on the net present value of a Heathrow Northwest runway is contained in the “Addendum to the Updated Appraisal Report” published June 2018 which updated the Department’s estimate to a net present value of £2.9bn to minus £2.5bn in 2014 prices. Economic benefits as reported in the Updated Appraisal Report also fed into the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS). The Department has committed to reviewing and updating the ANPS and has invited proposals for a third runway to be brought forward by the summer. Once proposals are received, the government will review the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) which provides the basis for decision making on granting development consent for a new runway at Heathrow”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/airport-expansion-updated-cost-and-benefits-appraisal>.

Q.15. Question (68669) asked by Ben Maguire (North Cornwall) on 16 July 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to develop a long-term strategy for regional air connectivity that (a) reduces reliance on (i) Gatwick Airport (ii) Heathrow Airport and (iii) other major hubs and (b) supports the growth of (1) Cornwall Airport Newquay and (2) other regional airports”.

A. Mike Kane on 21 July 2025: “The Department recognises how vital aviation is to maintaining connectivity between the regions of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the wider world. Ministers and officials at the Department meet regularly with regional airports, including Cornwall Newquay Airport, to discuss issues such as regional air connectivity.

Government supports connectivity across the union through our joint-funding of three Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes into London from Newquay, Dundee and Derry/Londonderry. The Government keeps PSO policy under review. This includes recommendations made through the Union Connectivity Review published in November 2021”.

National and Regional News

1st July - [Bristol Airport has published its 2040 Master Plan](#) outlining how it intends to grow by 25 percent over the next 15 years.

1st July - [Heathrow Airport is sounding out candidates to take over from Lord Deighton](#), its long-serving chairman who took up the post in 2016.

1st July - [Flights to Cornwall Airport Newquay with Aer Lingus Regional, operated by Emerald Airlines, have taken off from Belfast City Airport](#). They'll run twice weekly until August 30th,

2nd July - [CAA data confirms Southend Airport is UK's fastest growing hub](#). Between January-April 2025, passenger numbers rose by 106%, more than doubling in just four months.

2nd July - Final report issued from the review into the North Hyde Substation outage which caused shutdown of Heathrow last March. See [here](#) and [here](#) for details.

2nd July - [Stansted Airport has introduced a refreshed brand identity](#) as part of a broader effort to reimagine the airport's look while maintaining the open feel of its architecture.

3rd July - [Manchester Airport is facing growing pressure from private hire drivers](#) who say the airport's new policies are creating financial hardship and operational chaos.

3rd July - [Belfast City Airport increases drop-off charges](#) but is still one of cheapest in UK.

3rd July - [Manchester Airports Group who owns and operates Manchester, London Stansted and East Midlands Airports](#), records historic growth as it plans £2.5 billion investment.

3rd July - [Kenya Airways' new direct service from Gatwick to Nairobi launched today](#). The route marks the only non-stop connection between London Gatwick and the Kenyan capital.

4th July - [Manchester Airport celebrates 4th of July](#) – American Independence Day – as stats show more passengers are heading Stateside.

4th July - Leeds Bradford Airport introduces hybrid bus upgrade – [see here](#) for details.

5th July - Panic caused passengers to jump from wings after fire alarm on Ryanair flight from Manchester to Mallorca – see [here](#) for details.

6th July – Read article: [‘This Is why the Airbus A380 made a comeback at British Airways’](#).

7th July – [Leaked email shows Swissport UK airport staff get bonuses for spotting easyJet oversize bags](#). They're “eligible to receive £1.20 (£1 after tax) for every gate bag taken”.

7th July - [Mitie has signed a new multimillion-pound facilities management contract with Manchester Airports Group](#), extending partnership with the airport for another 7 years.

8th July - [Birmingham Airport begins Summer with busiest June on record](#) welcoming 1,360,957 passengers.

8th July - [Edinburgh and Birmingham Airports will soon lift 100ml liquid limit](#). They're among some airports with new technology allowing liquid containers up to 2 litres in hand luggage.

8th July - [Update on 'Heathrow Reimagined'](#): Introduced earlier this year, the campaign addresses what it sees as issues with airport's current regulatory model and infrastructure.

8th July - [East Midlands Airport is rethinking layout of aircraft stand spaces](#) to increase capacity for cargo and passenger sides of its business as part of its strategic growth plans.

8th July - [Frequentis Departure Manager system at Gatwick is now fully operational](#). It supports Airport Collaborative Decision Making programme which improves coordination between airlines, air traffic controllers and airport operators.

8th July - [New research has revealed that Heathrow ranks poorly for mobile broadband \(4G/5G\) and WiFi performance](#) when compared with 48 major airports worldwide.

9th July - [Inaugural Pegasus Airlines flight between Istanbul's Sabiha Gökçen International Airport and Bristol arrived yesterday](#) and was welcomed by Bristol Airport staff.

9th July - Addison Lee has formed a partnership with EV charging firm GRIDSERVE to support the growth of electric private hire services at London Gatwick Airport. Details are [here](#).

9th July - [London Gatwick airport to gain first fully electric buses](#). They will be used to shuttle passengers from long-stay car parks to the terminal buildings.

9th July - [The first ever electric flight to land at London Gatwick](#) took place as part of the VINCI Airports Network Elektro Tour.

10th July - [Cornwall Airport Newquay announce official opening its next-generation security facilities](#) including advanced CT X-ray screening technology enabling passengers to keep liquids/electronics in their bags.

10th July - Did you know that airports like Heathrow and Gatwick could help aliens spot Earth? (Me neither!) That's according to research presented at the [Royal Astronomical Society's National Astronomy Meeting](#). More about this [here](#).

10th July - [New destinations expand the short-haul network of British Airways](#). Rabat in Morocco and Graz in Austria total BA's short-haul route map to 130 destinations.

10th July - [New owners of Gloucestershire Airport to invest millions in site and create jobs](#). Horizon Aero Group named as the prospective buyer for the Staverton-based transport hub.

10th July - New research looked at 250 airports across 68 countries - and listed just two UK airports in the top 100 - see [here](#) for more details.

11th July - [Heathrow presents plans for next 5-year period to CAA](#) saying mini expansion could add 10 million passengers by 2031 by making changes to existing terminals if it can increase fees. Meanwhile...

11th July - IAG objects to 'excessive' charges as Heathrow proposes higher fees - see [here](#).

11th July - [Eight students from Stansted Airport College start their first week on the job](#) as part of a brand-new work experience scheme launched by London Stansted Airport.

11th July - [French firm Ardian buys more shares in London Heathrow holding company](#). Ardian is already the biggest shareholder in FGP Topco, the Heathrow owner.

11th July - This article takes you [inside Heathrow Airport's £10bn private investment and its most significant transformation in over a decade](#).

11th July - [Air India ends all London Gatwick flights to consolidate at Heathrow](#). It remains unclear whether the carrier will return to Gatwick during the winter.

11th July - Kemi Badenoch MP officially opens London Stansted's new domestic arrival building. Details are [here](#).

11th July - [In Demand Radio teams up with Liverpool John Lennon Airport](#) in year-long media partnership which will include live broadcasts from airport and on-air competitions.

12th July – More on the unveiling of Heathrow’s 5-year plan is [here](#).

13th July – [Small plane crashes at London Southend Airport](#). Airport accident involves Dutch King Air operator Zeus and airport closed until further notice.

14th July – [This article is about Al Titterton, Terminal Operations Director at Birmingham Airport](#) and what he will be discussing as a guest speaker at the International Airport Summit 2025 to be held in Berlin in November.

14th July - [Southend Airport plane crash witness says jet 'corkscrewed upside down' before exploding on impact](#). Airport remains shut and flights cancelled.

14th July - [Gatwick deploys Frequentis Departure Manager \(DMAN\) system](#). It’s a key part of airport’s collaborative decision making (A-CDM) programme and is connected to the Eurocontrol Network Manager, enabling better coordination across European airspace.

15th July - [London City Airport will double taxi rank barrier fee to £2 from 17 July](#).

15th July - [Four dead after small plane crash at London Southend Airport two days ago](#). They were all foreign nationals, it’s been reported.

15th July - [Enhanced mobile connectivity begins at Manchester Airport](#). Passengers now served by enhanced indoor wireless network coverage and capacity.

16th July – [Newquay Airport](#): The way in which the route to London is being run may be to blame for falling passenger numbers says one of Cornwall Council's most senior officers.

16th July - [London Luton Airport’s 2024 Sustainability Report](#) shows record employment, major carbon cuts and strong investment in local communities. More details [here](#).

16th July - [New terminal extension opens at Leeds Bradford Airport](#). It includes a modernised arrivals process, a new baggage reclaim area and an upgraded passport control facility.

16th July - [East Midlands Airport increases widebody cargo stands](#). It’s doubled wide-body stands on east apron from 2 to 4 while west apron has increased from 5 to 8.

17th July - [UK drivers warned of soaring charges to drop off passengers at airports this summer](#). Major European airports continue to allow motorists brief stops without charge.

17th July - [Gatwick Airport to introduce 14 new electric buses](#) for car park shuttle service and it’s gearing for the summer holidays with [the introduction of new security technology](#).

17th July - [London Southend Airport has fully reopened](#) following last Sunday’s air crash.

18th July - [London Stansted is gearing up for its busiest summer yet](#) with up to 4.4 million passengers expected to travel through the terminal during the six-week school holidays.

18th July - Up to 15h 25m: UK’s new 2nd longest nonstop flights begin next week with Royal Brunei from London Gatwick – [see here](#) for details.

19th July – Read article: [‘From liquids to border queues: how changes at UK airports will affect your trip’](#).

20th July - [Heathrow Fixed Penalty Notice crackdown creates new risks for licensed taxi drivers](#), warns LTDA rep.

20th July - [American Airlines removes one of its daily flights on New York \(JFK\)/London Heathrow Airport route](#) for upcoming winter season. There’ll now be 3 instead of 4 flights.

21st July - Mayor issues statement on Bristol Airport expansion plans – see [here](#).

21st July - [Manchester Airport is predicting its busiest summer yet](#), with more than 5m passengers expected before the schools go back in September.

21st July - [Norwich Airport link road work set to start this month](#) and should last for about eight months.

22nd July - London Luton Airport connected at a recent networking event with over 50 local businesses to boost regional economic opportunities. Details are [here](#).

22nd July - [BBGA co-hosts Isle of Man Aviation Conference](#).

22nd July - [Newcastle Airport publishes 15-year masterplan for consultation](#) and prepares for nine million passengers by 2040.

23rd July - [Heathrow to submit third runway plan this month as passenger numbers hit new record](#). Strong demand for long-haul travel and larger aircraft boosted volumes said airport.

23rd July - Leeds Bradford Airport loses appeal for nighttime flights – details are [here](#).

23rd July – [Heathrow Airport taxi touting concerns continue as TfL signage review remains incomplete](#). Review is being carried out jointly with Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL).

23rd July - [Heathrow boss 'frustrated' at being asleep during fire in March](#) that led to the airport's closure and the cancellation of 1,300 flights.

23rd July - [Bristol Airport opens £60m interchange to boost bus and coach travel options](#).

23rd July - London Gatwick announces plan to beat the holiday rush – [see here](#).

24th July - [Plaque unveiled at East Midlands Airport](#) to mark completion of work that means all security lanes used by customers are fitted with next-generation scanning technology.

24th July - [Doncaster businessman who has helped fight to re-open Doncaster Sheffield Airport](#) reflects on his three-year campaign. Meanwhile, the Great Northern Conference will be held at Doncaster Racecourse on Tuesday December 2, where discussion topics are due to include progress on the potential reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport – [see here](#).

25th July - [No1 Lounges, a subsidiary of Swissport, has launched two new airport lounges](#) at London Heathrow Airport and Jersey Airport to enhance the passenger experience.

26th July - [Heathrow Airport congratulates Air Peace on expansion of its operations in the UK](#). Direct flights from Abuja airport to Heathrow and Gatwick start from October 26.

26th July - [Read this article](#) which describes why swapping Heathrow for Luton could be an ideal alternative when flying into London.

27th July - Campaign group for a Heathrow 3rd runway, that gets funding from airport, has been distributing "incredibly misleading" information to households in west London, says opponents of the expansion. Details [are here](#).

27th July - [Pakistan International Airlines announce resumption of a service to Manchester](#). The news comes after the CAA lifted a five-year ban on Pakistani carriers.

28th July - [Last call to apply for Stansted Airport Community Fund summer grants – deadline 8 August](#). The fund supports a wide range of local projects within a 10-mile radius of airport.

28th July - [Manchester Airport unveils a new section at its redeveloped Terminal 2 Departure Lounge](#), marking a milestone in its £1.3 billion transformation programme.

30th July – [CAA says industry must improve communications with consumers during disruption](#). Just one in 10 passengers say they feel fully informed of their rights when flights are disrupted.

30th July - Union chiefs urge government to back Heathrow expansion – more details [here](#).

30th July - Major UK airports ground flights over radar issues – see [here](#) for details.

31st July - Birmingham Airport announces terminal investments – details [here](#).

31st July - [Hotel tycoon unveils rival Heathrow expansion plan with shorter third runway](#). More details on this are [here](#).

31st July – There's calls - led by Ryanair's chief operating officer - for Martin Rolfe, head of Nats to resign or be sacked in wake of yet another ATC disaster – see [here](#) for details.

31st July – [New Cornwall Council Cabinet claims](#) that years and over £1 million spent on Cornwall Airport Newquay survival were 'largely wasted'. [Airport is to stay publicly-owned](#).

Other Aviation Industry News

1st July - [Flight from Shannon Airport heading to New York](#), marked the grand finale of “Tracing the Transatlantic,” a 12-day journey celebrating Pan Am’s legacy. Meanwhile...

1st July - [Shannon Airport passenger numbers are up 7%](#) in first half of 2025.

1st July - [Carbon capture technology at Dublin Airport](#): first industrial-scale test using technology developed at TCD ‘has potential to revolutionise aviation and e-fuel industries’.

1st July – Read scientific article: [Optimizing the safety-efficiency trade-off on nationwide air traffic network flow using cooperative co-evolutionary paradigm](#)’.

2nd July – This article is titled: [‘Integrating local culture into airport design’](#).

2nd July - [Ryanair announce that it has carried over 8 million passengers through Newcastle Airport](#) since it began operations to/from the airport in 2003.

2nd July - [Sweden reverses air travel tax, pushing against ‘flight shaming’ wave it created](#).

Since its inception, domestic air travel has slumped but the shift, effective July 1, has aviation industry leaders hopeful for future investments in sustainable technology.

2nd July - Spanish government approves €351 million airport investment to accelerate upgrades before 2027 – [see here](#) for details.

2nd July - [First electric aircraft crosses English Channel](#) in VINCI Airports-supported sustainable aviation tour.

3rd July - [Swissport accelerating decarbonisation of airport ground operations](#) with €1.5 billion investment programme on fleet electrification/renewable energy over next 5 years.

3rd July - [New technology developed at Trinity College Dublin which removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere](#) is being trialled at Dublin Airport.

3rd July - [French ATC strike causes mass disruption as Europe breaks for summer](#).

4th July - [Passengers face disruption with Glasgow Airport staff set for strikes](#). Three companies are involved in pay and working conditions disputes.

4th July – This item titled: [‘Business exchange’](#) talks about some of the news from companies that support the growth and development of the world’s airports.

4th July - [Dublin and Cork airports have busiest June to date](#). Daa also says Dublin will exceed the 32 million passenger cap this year.

4th July - [Prestwick Airport chosen as final assembly location for the next Red Arrow jets](#).

Aeralis has picked airport as its preferred site to bring the aircraft together after being built in different stages across the UK. More on this story is [here](#).

4th July – Read interesting article titled: [‘100 Million Club: The Rise of Mega Airports-Part 1’](#).

5th July – Read [this article](#) on the views of Edinburgh Airport CE on its flights and its future.

5th July - [Ireland may face EU fines](#) if Dublin Airport isn’t connected to mainline rail by 2040.

6th July - [Airbus ‘Taxibot’ hybrid-electric tug programme](#) is being trialled at world airports.

7th July - [Edinburgh Airport lifts 100ml liquids rule for 1st time since it was introduced in 2006](#). Passengers can keep liquids in bags/liquid containers can now be up to 2 litres each.

7th July - [Passenger traffic at Europe’s airports continued its strong recovery in May](#), rising +3.4% year-on-year and surpassing 2019 pre-pandemic levels by +8% according to ACI.

8th July - [Dutch airline KLM announces 3rd route to Amsterdam from Cork](#). It’s part of KLM’s expansion of its winter schedule adding 32,000 seats compared to late 2024 and early 2025.

8th July – [Airlines for America, a trade association representing US airlines](#) expects US Dept of Transport officials to visit Ireland to raise concerns over passenger cap at Dublin Airport.

8th July - [Transport Secretary tells air passengers to assume 100ml limit on liquids in hand luggage remains in place](#) despite 2 airports (Edinburgh and Birmingham) changing their policies.

9th July – This item is titled: '[Airports and climate change: risks and opportunities](#)'.

9th July – [Ryanair announce that it has carried over 7 million passengers through Glasgow Airport](#) since it began operations to/from the airport in 2014.

9th July - [European airports and airlines slam Global Solidarity Levy](#) – the proposal to target air transport in aim to raise funds for international development.

10th July - [Planners set to rule on night flights at Dublin Airport](#). Industry hopes finding will tackle 'contradictions' in original rules.

10th July - [15below, a specialist in automated passenger communications for airlines, has acquired Airport AI](#), an artificial intelligence platform for airports, for an undisclosed sum.

10th July - [US Transportation Security Administration updates security rules](#): passengers travelling through domestic airports no longer required to remove shoes during screening.

11th July - [Union sets date for Glasgow Airport strike action this month](#). Around 75 staff including engineers/managers will walk out between 6am on July 24 and 6am on July 26.

11th July - [Coventry University advances hydrogen fuel cell tech for zero-carbon aviation](#). It will develop advanced health monitoring and diagnostic technologies to enhance fuel cell performance understanding.

12th July – This article is titled: '[Here's Why Ryanair Doesn't Fly to the United States](#)'.

12th July - [ACI World confirms the 20 busiest air cargo hubs in 2024](#). Hong Kong comes out in the top spot, but no UK ones are included.

13th July - India releases [preliminary report](#) on AI171 crash, Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner (VT-ANB) heading for Gatwick, which occurred on 12 June. Details [here](#).

14th July - [Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam](#), expects the number of passengers traveling through the airport to increase by 25% in the next decade.

14th July - [Police plan to breathalyse some passengers driving off after landing at Aberdeen International Airport](#), in a trial scheme to tackle drink-driving among holidaymakers.

15th July - [UK trade union Unite calls for hand luggage rules to be standardised](#). Says differences across airports/airlines drives abuse from angry passengers caught by unexpected surcharges.

16th July – This article is titled: '[Why airports must embed AI into infrastructure to create a tailwind for growth](#)'.

16th July - [eVertiSKY launches UAM app](#): an AI-powered platform built to help stakeholders work towards commercial low-altitude airspace success.

16th July - Aviation Services UK and mobility aid manufacturers join forces to deliver Government recommendations on accessibility – [see here](#) for details.

17th July - As part of its commitment to advancing the UK's air cargo infrastructure, [FedEx has opened a state-of-the-art logistics facility half a mile from Manchester Airport](#).

17th July - [EasyJet 'extremely unhappy' as French ATC strikes see 660 flights cancelled](#). Fellow airline Ryanair has also hit out at the French strikes.

17th July - [Dublin Airport has been granted planning permission to increase the number of night-time flights it can operate](#) and extend the hours that it can use its second runway.

18th July - Dublin Airport welcomes new North Runway operating hours – see [here](#).

18th July 2025 - [UK aviation industry launches its annual 'One Too Many' campaign](#) reminding passengers disruptive behaviour could cost them holiday and a sizeable fine.

19th July – [Chapman Freeborn handles record-breaking cargo at Glasgow Airport](#). Meanwhile, Glasgow Airport strike suspended to allow for talks – see [here](#) for details.

19th July - [Oman Airports in talks with Wizz Air](#) for direct Europe-to-Muscat flights.

19th July - [Emirates will launch a third daily flight to Dublin starting 26 October 2025](#), increasing its total to 21 weekly services.

20th July - [Parked in lay-bys: the drivers determined to avoid airport drop-off fees](#). RAC research released this week, found over half of UK's busiest airports have raised drop-off fees in last 12 months.

20th July - Saudi Arabia announce the planned establishment of a new national low-cost airline with a fleet of 45 planes to be ready by 2030. Details are [here](#).

21st July - [Vertical Aerospace Makes World's First Airport-to-Airport eVTOL Flight](#). It flew 17 miles from its Flight Test Centre at Cotswold Airport to RAF Fairford.

21st July – [Ryanair boss blasts Government plans to unveil €100bn of new infrastructure spending](#) while airlines cannot make full use of already built infrastructure at Dublin Airport.

21st July - Airports join industry stakeholders to call for policy action on SAF – [see here](#).

21st July - [Ryanair chief cites lower costs](#) after moving aircraft from Cork Airport to Shannon.

21st July - [European tech company Tekever, specialising in AI drones, has acquired West Wales Airport for an undisclosed sum](#). They'll use it as hub for testing and developing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for UK and international customers.

22nd July - [Cirium data reveals destinations where Brits are most likely to face flight delays](#). Countries with highest % of delayed flights were Greece, Faroe Islands and Bulgaria.

22nd July - [UK travellers will be allowed to use e-gates at German airports](#). UK government says 3.2 million British travellers visited Germany in 2023, with numbers growing steadily since the Covid pandemic.

23rd July – Read article titled: '[UK airport parking: how to drive down the cost on your summer holiday](#)'.

23rd July - [Edinburgh Airport lifts 100ml liquids rule after security equipment upgrade](#). Passengers can now leave liquids in bags with individual containers up to 2 litres permitted.

23rd July - [Permission granted for £15m industrial park near Aberdeen Airport](#).

23rd July - [Zurich's Swissport has signed binding agreements to acquire ASC Cargo](#), which provides ground handling and cargo services at London Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

24th July - [NetJets has opened a "Service Hub" at Farnborough Airport](#) to bolster its operational infrastructure in Europe and reduce need for maintenance positioning flights.

24th July - [A survey of 2,000 UK air passengers](#) reveals cautious public sentiment regarding digital security, heightened by recent cyberattacks in the UK.

25th July - [The Air Charter Association welcomes the successful cohort for their internship programme](#), which will run from this August to November at London Biggin Hill Airport.

26th July – [This article](#) explains the differences in size between Boeing 's two most enduring "Jumbos" - the Boeing 747-200 and the later Boeing 747-400.

27th July - Airports in the EU are free to scrap the 100ml liquid rule provided they have the right scanners in place – [see here](#).

28th July – This article asks: '[Will Boeing Ever Build Another Double-Decker Aircraft?](#)'

28th July - [Aer Lingus adds a direct route from Dublin to Tromsø, Norway for winter schedule](#). Starting 3 December 2025, route will depart twice weekly onboard Airbus A320.

28th July - [ACI EUROPE concerned over current EU security testing/certification regime](#). It is calling for urgent and comprehensive overhaul of the system saying it is 'not fit for purpose'.

29th July - [Shannon Airport announce a new service to Frankfurt](#) for next summer.

30th July – For aircraft aficionados: '[Why the Airbus A350 Has Such A Slow Landing Speed](#)'.

30th July - [Dublin airport operator daa has submitted a planning application to Fingal County Council](#) seeking permission to expand the existing Pier 1 West building at Dublin Airport.

30th July - [Ryanair says it's dropping three French airports over ticket tax](#). It's urged French government to abolish "harmful" air tax in order to make French aviation more competitive.

31st July – Read item titled: '[Flight delayed or cancelled? These are your rights to care and compensation](#)'.

31st July - [€2.35m in EU funding to advance sustainable transport at Dublin Airport](#). Operator daa said new funding marks major milestone in the delivery of the Dublin Airport Campus Electrification (DACE) project.

31st July – [New report says biometric technology will help future proof airports](#).

SASIG Library Additions

A presentation: 'Adopting Drone Technology in Local Government' that was given by our guest speaker, James Arnott, at the 25 June SASIG AGM, can be seen in the members' section of our website.