

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: October 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

- **1 October** – [Heathrow unveils 'offline' M25 tunnel plan for third runway expansion](#).
- **14 October** – Read [here](#) about the beginning today of the European Union's new biometric Exit/Entry System (EES).
- **15 October** - [Legal challenge begins against Gatwick expansion](#).
- **20 October** - [Biggest change to Edinburgh and Glasgow air routes for 70 years unveiled](#). Three-month consultation launched to shorten flights/cut emissions. [See NATS press release](#).
- **22 October** - European Union Aviation Safety Agency publishes [ReFuelEU Aviation Annual Technical Report](#), giving idea of how SAF is being supplied, purchased and used across EU.
- **22 October** – Transport Secretary launches [review of Airports National Policy Statement](#).
- **24 October** - [Report from cross-party Environmental Audit Committee](#) said government had "not demonstrated" that negative climate impact of airport expansion would be outweighed by the economic growth created.
- **27 October** – [Eastern Airlines, which flies to Humberside, Teesside International, Gatwick, and Newquay](#), lodges a notice of intention to appoint an administrator.
- **29 October** - [A fully reopened Doncaster Sheffield Airport is expected to operate at an £81 million loss for its first nine years](#), a new council report reveals.

Potential Actions for LAs

- Government formally announces a review of the Airports National Policy Statement.
- To note papers from SASIG Members meeting on 15 October.

SASIG Activities

- 15 October - SASIG members' meeting.
- Approach made to Aviation Minister for meeting.
- Policy Director attended ANEG Meeting hosted by DfT.

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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.

SASIG Secretariat

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)

4 Beacon Avenue

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4QL

Email: secretariat@sasig.org.uk

Tel: 01732 220256

Editorial

Heathrow expansion continues to make the news as the airport revealed how it plans to use an “offline” construction method to build a new tunnel, under its proposed 3rd runway plans. Heathrow Airport Ltd’s plans for the expansion of the airport were submitted to Government in July this year and included realigning a section of the M25 motorway 130m westwards and lowering it, so that it passes beneath the runway in a new tunnel. At the end of the month (30th) the Government was asked by Lord Moylan what information they intend to publish about the proposals they have received for R3 before announcing any major decisions. (see Parliament section in this Bulletin).

Europe’s new Entry/Exit System officially began operations on 12 October marking a major shift in how travellers from non-EU countries enter and leave the Schengen Area. The EES replaces the traditional passport stamping process with automated registration of biometric and travel data and is designed to enhance border security and streamline passport checks. It will be gradually introduced at airports and other external borders across participating European countries.

15 October saw a legal challenge against Gatwick Airport expansion by Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emissions (CAGNE) who argue that the government's decision to approve the construction of a 2nd operating runway at the West Sussex airport was flawed.

20 October brought long-awaited proposals that could radically alter flight paths at Edinburgh and Glasgow airports, unveiled in the biggest changes to their airspace since the 1950s. Details of the planned changes to enable aircraft to fly more direct routes and cut emissions and noise at both airports, come two years later than planned as part of the first stage of the UK’s Airspace Modernisation plans, which include redrawing airspace across the UK. SASIG will be keeping an eye on developments as the focus moves to the North of England, Midlands and London.

A very important piece of news came on 22 October, when the Transport Secretary launched a review of the Airports National Policy Statement which will provide the framework within which any future Heathrow expansion will be considered. Previous work to launch the ANPS in 2018 took 5 years, but the government confirmed the reviewed draft ANPS will be published for consultation by summer 2026. The review of the ANPS will include considering 4 key tests that any proposed scheme for Heathrow expansion will have to meet, including on climate change, noise, air quality and contributing to economic growth across the country.

Then on 24 October, came a report from the cross-party Environmental Audit Committee which said the government had "not demonstrated" that the negative climate impact of airport expansion would be outweighed by the economic growth created. The DfT followed up by saying that airport expansion plans would "only go ahead if it aligns with our legal obligations on climate change".

This was followed by the disappointing news that Eastern Airways, which flies to Wick, Aberdeen, Humberside, Teesside International, London Gatwick, and Newquay, had lodged

a notice of intention to appoint an administrator. The CAA subsequently confirmed that the airline had cancelled all their flights and advised passengers not to travel to the airport.

On a final note, as we move quickly towards another new year, we would like to take this opportunity to reach out to all our members and ask they take their opportunity wherever possible (busy diaries and holidays acknowledged!) to join in our meetings throughout this coming year. There is a lot of important policy coming up within the sector in 2026 which local authorities should keep abreast of - the Chairman and Secretariat stand ready to assist and would be pleased to offer bilateral meetings to any member that would like to discuss forthcoming developments and how they might affect them!

Dates for our regular meetings will be circulated soon so please keep an eye out for them.

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).

2025/26

Chairman's Advisory Group meeting (CAG): Next meeting will be scheduled for early 2026 – date to be advised.

SASIG Members' meeting: next meeting likely to be scheduled for February 2026 – date to be advised.

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

19-20 November 2025: [International Airport Summit](#), Berlin

10-11 December 2025: [15th Aviation Forum](#), Conference Centre, Hamburg

17-18 March 2026: [Sustainable Skies World Summit](#), Farnborough Conference Centre

17-19 March 2026: [Passenger Terminal Expo](#), Excel, London

17-20 May 2026: [Routes Europe](#), Rimini, Italy

27-29 May 2026: [EBACE](#), Geneva, Switzerland

6-7 June 2026: [Manston International Air Show](#), Manston Airport, Ramsgate

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

Consultations Update: Current:

CAP1616: UK airspace Change Process consultation

On 25 September, the CAA launched their UK Airspace change process consultation. This document (CAP1616) is a formal consultation setting out the CAA's proposals to modify the airspace change process.

The consultation will run until **18 December 2025**.

UK ETS: Regional Aviation Connectivity

On 28 October 2025, the UK ETS Authority launched a [consultation](#) to assess the impacts on regional air connectivity following the removal of UK ETS free allocation (FA) from the aviation sector. This could have material impacts on many regional and smaller airports and for that reason SASIG will be responding to this consultation. Members were notified.

The consultation seeks views on whether intervention is needed to protect regional air connectivity specifically in light of the end of FA for aircraft operators, and if so, what form this should take. Details on this consultation and how to respond can be seen [here](#) and the full consultation document can also be seen [here](#).

The deadline for responses is **19 December 2025**.

Parliamentary and Government News

15 October: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill

Consideration of Bill, as amended in the Public Bill Committee, was debated.

Also on this day: Community Helipads: Rural Access

The House was asked whether it has considered access to community helipads in rural areas.

22 October - Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander, launches [review of Airports National Policy Statement](#). Her oral statement can be seen [here](#).

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

The House returned from the Conference Recess on 13 October.

15 October: Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2025

The Grand Committee was asked that it consider the Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2025.

Transport Questions: House of Lords

The House returned from the Conference Recess on 13 October.

21 October: Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2025

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill asked that the draft Regulations laid before the House on 16 July be approved.

20 October: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill

The Bill was brought from the Commons, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

27 October - Heathrow: National Airports Review

The House heard the Statement which was made in the House of Commons on Wednesday 22 October.

30 October – Heathrow Airport: Third Runway

The Government was asked by Lord Moylan what information they intend to publish about the proposals they have received for a third runway at Heathrow Airport before announcing any major decisions.

Parliamentary Questions:

Q.1. Question (HL10756) asked by Lord Bradshaw on 6 October 2025: “To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of current surface access arrangements between London and Heathrow, and whether these arrangements make the best use of available infrastructure capacity.”.

A. Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill on 20 October 2025: “Heathrow Airport has a wide range of surface access infrastructure, including rail services through Heathrow Express and Elizabeth Line trains, underground services on the Picadilly line, a wide network of bus and coach connections as well as being close to the M25 and M4 motorways. This network supported 83.9 million passengers to access the airport in 2024.

The most recent Heathrow Surface Access Strategy covers 2022 – 2026 and sets out how Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) supports passengers, staff and freight to arrive at the airport, including the continued use of available infrastructure and sets out any new requirements. Any expansion proposals for Heathrow Airport are currently subject to the 2018 Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which sets out targets for increasing public transport mode share and reducing staff car journeys which the proposals will need to meet. These targets will be reviewed as part of any future ANPS review, and the department will engage with promoters of a third runway to ensure future surface access arrangements make effective use of capacity to the airport”.

Q.2. Question (80750) asked by Sian Berry (Brighton Pavilion) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of permitting crop-based biofuels to be eligible under the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Mandate on (a) the environment and (b) food security”.

A. Keir Mather on 15 October 2025: “In August 2025 the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed that a call for evidence on the eligibility of crops in the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Mandate would be published by the end of this year. This followed a call for evidence on the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO).

Crops encompass a variety of feedstocks with different impacts. It is right that we gather up-to-date evidence and information on emerging developments, including on the

sustainability risks associated with crop-based Sustainable Aviation Fuel and how regulation could mitigate these risks.

The call for evidence does not propose any changes to the SAF Mandate nor does it signal the future direction of the SAF Mandate; it is intended to support assessment of the potential impacts, including on the environment and food security, of crop-based biofuels by the Department for Transport”.

Q.3. Question (78707) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to her Department’s press release entitled Greener flights ahead for UK aviation, published on 1 January 2025, what estimate her Department has made of the additional cost per passenger flight of the requirement for airlines to use 10% sustainable aviation fuel by 2030”.

A. Keir Mather on 20 October 2025: “The press release relates to the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) mandate which came into force on 1 January. The Department published a Cost Benefit Analysis for the SAF Mandate, alongside the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) Order 2024 SI No.1187 which introduced the mandate. That Cost Benefit Analysis sets out our analysis of the potential costs and benefits of the policy. Any impact on ticket prices is expected to be within the range of normal year to year changes in air fares. We continually monitor the market to update our assumptions where necessary. The Mandate has been designed to protect against excessive costs with a built-in review process so the Government can take action if necessary”.

Q.4. Question (78619) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she make it her policy to consult the Climate Change Committee on proposals to expand Heathrow Airport.

A. Keir Mather on 20 October 2025: “In January, the Chancellor announced the government’s support for a third runway at Heathrow. In that announcement, the government committed to engaging the Climate Change Committee (CCC) as part of the review of the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), on how aviation expansion can be made consistent with our net zero framework.

Over summer, the Department for Transport has been assessing proposals for a third runway at Heathrow from potential scheme promoters. The government is considering the proposals to inform the ANPS review. Further details on the assessment of scheme proposals, ANPS review and how the CCC will be engaged as part of the review will be announced shortly”.

Q.5. Question (80649) asked by Dr Al Pinkerton (Surrey Heath) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the proposed expansion of Farnborough Airport on (a) noise pollution and (b) air quality in Surrey Heath constituency”.

A. Keir Mather on 15 October 2025: “Assessment of the potential impact of Farnborough Airport’s expansion is a matter for Rushmoor Borough Council as the local planning authority responsible for considering the airport’s planning application”.

Q.6. Question (80525) asked by Alex Brewer (North East Hampshire) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made

of the availability of public transport to (a) Gatwick Airport and (b) other airports for those travelling on the first flights of the day”.

A. Keir Mather on 17 October 2025: “The Government expects airports to work closely with local stakeholders to develop masterplans and surface access strategies to respond to the needs of the airport. The government recommends that masterplans and surface access strategies be updated every five years to meet the evolving requirements of airport. This can include ensuring suitable transport options to support passengers wanting to catch either the first flight of the day or those arriving on the final flight. We continue to work closely with Gatwick and other airports as they develop their plans”.

Q.7. Question (78628) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of the Airports National Policy Statement, published on 5 June 2018, in the context of the potential impact of airport expansion proposals approved at (a) London Gatwick, (b) London Luton, (c) London Stansted and (d) London City on the UK's climate commitments”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 October 2025: “The Government has been clear that any airport expansion proposals need to demonstrate that they are in line with the UK's legal, environmental and climate obligations.

The Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) has effect in relation to the provision of a Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport. Nonetheless, the ANPS is clear that it is still a relevant and important consideration in the determination of airport related developments, particularly where it relates to London or the South East of England.

In January the Chancellor announced that the Government will review the ANPS, which provides the basis for decision making on granting development consent for a new runway at Heathrow. Further details on this will be announced shortly. The current ANPS remains operational until the review has been completed”.

Q.8. Question (82402) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 15 October 2025: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she plans to increase business rates on (a) airports and (b) airport operators; and if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of such an increase on regional airport (i) viability and (ii) connectivity”.

A. Dan Tomlinson on 24 October 2025: “The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) conducts analysis of changes in rateable value to prepare for regular revaluations. The VOA is currently working on a revaluation of all non-domestic properties, which will come into effect on 1 April 2026. For the upcoming 2026 revaluation, as with other revaluations, the VOA is receiving ongoing representations from the airport sector.

The Government will confirm the rates for the new multipliers at Budget 2025, taking account of the outcomes of the 2026 revaluation as well as the broader economic and fiscal context. We are fully committed to supporting the aviation industry. The sector is vital to our future as a global trading nation and will play an important role in local economies”.

Q.9. Question (79421) asked by Ben Obese-Jecty (Huntingdon) on 10 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to page 114 of the Strategic Defence Review 2025, published on 8 July 2025, what progress he has made in planning for the use of UK commercial airfields in times of crisis”.

A. Luke Pollard on 20 October 2025: “The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has robust plans for

mobilising and deploying the Armed Forces in response to any number of events and crises, whether they take place at home and abroad. These plans are regularly reviewed, tested and exercised. As part of the planning process the MOD will identify civilian infrastructure which is deemed critical to enable and support military activity. This includes civilian airfields. The MOD routinely engages with commercial transport operators and industry associations and works closely with other Government Departments including the Department for Transport”.

Q.10. Question (82749) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 16 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department undertook a value-for-money assessment under HM Treasury Green Book guidance before announcing its support for the expansion of Heathrow Airport”.

A. Keir Mather on 24 October 2025: “A Treasury Green Book Value for Money assessment is a process and judgement about the optimal use of public resources to achieve the stated objectives of a project. We have been clear throughout that any expansion of Heathrow Airport should be funded entirely by the private sector”.

Q.11. Question (82397) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 15 October 2025: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she plans to increase Air Passenger Duty on domestic or international flights; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of any such increase on (a) regional connectivity and (b) aviation sector competitiveness”.

A. Dan Tomlinson on 20 October 2025: “Air Passenger Duty (APD) applies to airlines and is the principal tax on the aviation sector. It is expected to raise £4.7 billion in 2025-26 and it aims to ensure that airlines make a fair contribution to the public finances, particularly given that tickets are VAT free and aviation fuel incurs no duty.

At Autumn Budget 2024, the Government announced increases to APD rates for 2026-27, which partially make up for a real-terms fall in rates following a period of high inflation. The increase equates to £1 per economy class passenger more for those taking domestic flights, and for those travelling short-haul in economy class, this will be an increase of £2 per passenger per flight.

A higher rate currently applies to larger private jets, and this will rise by an additional 50 per cent on top of the general increase made to all APD rates. The Government also published a consultation on the extension of the higher rate to cover all private jets already within scope of the APD regime. At present, the higher rate only applies to larger private jets, and so many private jet passengers pay the same rates as commercial airline passengers. The consultation closed on 22 January and the Government will respond in due course.

The Chancellor makes decisions on tax policy at fiscal events in the context of public finances. The Government publishes Tax Information and Impact Notices (TIINs) alongside tax policy changes”.

Q.12. Question (83374) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 20 October 2025: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the sustainable aviation fuel mandate on (a) airline operating costs and (b) the average price of a passenger ticket in each financial year to 2030-31”.

A. Keir Mather on 23 October 2025: "I refer the Right Honourable Member to the answer given to PQ UIN 78707 on 20 October 2025. The Cost Benefit Analysis for the SAF Mandate sets out our assessment of the potential costs and benefits of the policy".

Q.13. Question (83314) asked by Jim Shannon (Strangford) on 20 October 2025: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department has had discussions on disruption by drones at airports with (a) pilots, (b) other aviation professionals (c) the Ministry of Defence and (d) governments of other European countries that have experienced such disruption; and what steps her Department plans to take to counter such risks to commercial aviation".

A. Keir Mather on 28 October 2025: "UK aviation operates in the private sector. It is therefore the responsibility of industry to ensure there are appropriate contingency plans in place to minimise potential disruption.

The Department for Transport, Home Office and Ministry of Defence engage regularly with the aviation sector to gain assurances of their security plans, including in response to drone incursions at UK airports.

The Department for Transport is going further by mandating the use of Remote Identification (RID) for drones allowing them to be tracked and identified. RID will protect the airspace, its users and the public from unlawful and unsafe drones operating without adequate permissions, including around UK airports".

Q.14. Question (81869) asked by Neil Coyle (Bermondsey & Old Southwark) on 14 October 2025: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the supply of sustainable aviation fuel increases to match demand".

A. Keir Mather on 21 October 2025: "The Department for Transport is taking a comprehensive approach to ensure the supply of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) increases to match demand. In January 2025, the Government introduced the SAF Mandate, obligating jet fuel suppliers to blend increasing volumes of SAF into the UK aviation fuel mix, with targets rising from 2% in 2025 to 10% in 2030 and 22% in 2040. These targets were set following detailed analysis and engagement with industry stakeholders. To ensure the SAF Mandate reflects the latest technological and commercial developments, regular review points are built into the legislation, allowing targets to be revisited if required. The first formal review will be carried out before 2030.

To support supply, £63 million in grant funding has been allocated through the Advanced Fuels Fund for the current year, with continued support for SAF production through to 2029/30. The UK SAF Clearing House provides advice and support to SAF producers navigating the fuel testing landscape, helping to remove barriers to new fuels coming to market.

In addition, the Government has introduced legislation for a Revenue Certainty Mechanism to increase investor confidence and unlock investment in UK SAF production".

National and Regional News

1st October – '[The People v Leeds Bradford Airport – the conflict continues](#)' looks at how the airport is doing despite losing an appeal at a public inquiry earlier this year over night flights.

1st October – Heathrow's Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) approach could offer lessons for Liverpool's airport taxi and private hire parking problems – details on this [here](#).

1st October - Staff at East Midlands Airport have given the equivalent of 475 days of volunteering time to support local community projects in 2024/5. [See here](#) for details.

2nd October - [Heathrow unveils 'offline' M25 tunnel plan for third runway expansion](#).

2nd October - [Emirates plans to add another six flights to London Heathrow per week](#). This will bring the total number of weekly flights between the two hubs to 48 flights.

3rd October - Belfast International has announced that it is now “fully recovered” from the economic aftershocks of the Covid pandemic – details are [here](#).

3rd October – [More news on Heathrow Airport plans to upgrade M25](#) with new tunnel and bridges while keeping traffic flowing

4th October – [Heathrow overhaul](#): New system set to change the way taxi drivers work the airport rank.

4th October – Read article titled: [‘British Airways’ Longest Nonstop Routes With The Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner in 2025’](#).

5th October - [International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations claims DfT is allegedly abandoning general aviation policy development](#) and instead focusing efforts on modernizing/expanding Heathrow, sustainable aviation fuels, regional airports, and drones.

6th October - [Weston Aviation gains ISCC certification for sustainable fuel supply chain](#). Since 1 January, all jet fuel across UK and Union airports within Ireland contains a minimum blend of 2% SAF calculated on a mass balance basis.

6th October - Following a full market tender, Global Exchange has been selected to provide currency exchange services across all four Heathrow terminals – details are [here](#).

6th October - [Birmingham Airport invests £3.8m in assisted travel service](#) with the introduction of a fleet of new purpose-built ambulifts.

6th October - [Ryanair has launched its winter schedule from Cornwall Airport Newquay](#). The airline will operate four routes - to London, Dublin and Alicante and Malaga in Spain.

7th October - [East Midlands Airport expecting around 180,000 people to get away over the half term period](#) to catch some winter sun.

8th October - London Luton Airport has opened an airside Assisted Travel Lounge – see [here](#) - plus it's received [a grant from the DfT](#) for its ‘Classroom to Careers’ education programme.

8th October – World’s friendliest airport revealed - Taiwan Taoyuan Int. Airport. But a UK hub comes in 2nd place. [See here](#) to find out who! And it’s one familiar to SASIG! Several other UK hubs made the top 20 as well.

9th October - The State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan has partnered with U.S.-based Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), to [invest £50 million in London Gatwick Airport](#).

10th October – [Stansted Airport: ‘Meet the Buyers’ to return after £2.3m boost for local firms](#). Event SMEs the chance to meet key buyers linked to the airport’s supply chain.

10th October - London City Airport named UK’s best airport in Condé Nast Traveller Readers’ Choice Awards 2025 – details are [here](#).

11th October – Read article titled: [‘Was It Really a Design Flaw That Killed the Airbus A380?’](#)

12th October – [‘The Challenges Behind This 54-Year-Old Twin Otter’s 4,000-Mile Transatlantic Ferry Flight’](#): the story of the journey from Canada to the UK for an Isles of Scilly Skybus aircraft.

12th October – [‘Most Popular US-Europe Transatlantic Routes In 2025’](#): New York JFK to Heathrow is busiest route with 7,612 one-way departures offering 1,985,257 seats.

13th October - [Heathrow 2025 passenger numbers up just 0.3% amid capacity constraints](#). Figures show 63.3 million passengers travelled through its four terminals between January and September - only 200,000 more than during the same month last year.

13th October - [About 80 Unite workers at Bournemouth Airport accept 2-year pay deal](#) ending ongoing strike action. They work in areas such as baggage handling, check-in, flight dispatching and plane fuelling.

13th October - [East Midlands Airport appoints new Operations Director](#). Lauren Turner has worked in a variety of roles at the airport since 2013 when she joined as a security officer.

14th October - British Airways' Longest Nonstop Routes with the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner In 2025 – details are [here](#).

14th October - Willis Lease Finance Corporation, a lessor of commercial aircraft engines and provider of aviation services, has opened its [2nd hangar at Teesside International Airport](#).

15th October - [Cargo First, the dedicated cargo division of Bournemouth Airport](#), has announced the completion and commissioning of major new cargo handling facilities.

15th October - [Legal challenge begins against Gatwick expansion](#). Campaign group is arguing government's decision to approve construction of a 2nd operating runway was flawed.

16th October - [These are the World's Best Connected Megahubs in 2025](#): Heathrow continues to dominate at No. 1 position for the third consecutive year.

17th October - [London City Airport signs £490m refinancing arrangement](#). Nine banks have signed a combined finance package for the airport.

18th October - [Former BT Group chief Philip Jansen is being lined up as next chairman of Heathrow Airport](#) as it prepares to deliver an expansion costing close to £50bn.

18th October - [London-headquartered Airport Dimensions appoints Jeff Livney as VP of business development, digital products](#). The platform integrates digital services, lounges and commercial opportunities into a single ecosystem, designed to enhance traveller experiences and boost airport revenue.

20th October - [UK airports are experiencing a growing skills gap](#), with staff unprepared for the rapid adoption of electric and autonomous vehicles.

20th October - [Peel Group exits Liverpool John Lennon Airport after 28 years as shareholder](#). It's sold its 47.1% stake to infrastructure fund manager Ancala which now owns 94.2%.

20th October - [Government plans to give troops/MoD police legal basis to take down unidentified drones that threaten military installations](#). The move could later extend to critical infrastructure like airports.

21st October - [Manchester Airport sees busiest September on record](#). The airport welcomed more than 3.1 million passengers in September.

21st October - Channel Islands airline Blue Islands will provide new twice daily flights between Southampton and Leeds Bradford airports from March 2026 – details are [here](#).

22nd October - [Gatwick opens applications for 2026 graduate scheme](#). The programme begins on 1 September 2026 and last between two and three years, depending on the role.

22nd October - Transport Secretary launches [review of Airports National Policy Statement](#). Her oral statement can be seen [here](#).

22nd October - [Birmingham Airport plans to invest £300m over next 4 years](#) as anticipated growth in passenger numbers is expected to reach around 17 million by 2029.

23rd October - [Over October half-term 2025, 27,751 flights are scheduled to depart UK airports](#), equating to over 5 million seats – this is a 2% increase on October half-term 2024.

23rd October - Read about: '[London Heathrow's Longest Nonstop Routes In 2025](#)'.

23rd October - [Schools/community groups have received nearly £600,000 from East Midlands Airport over past 5 years](#): 1300 young people inspired about career in aviation.

24th October - [Report from cross-party Environmental Audit Committee](#) said government had "not demonstrated" that negative climate impact of airport expansion would be outweighed by the economic growth created.

24th October - [Etihad Cargo joins East Midlands Airport's growing cargo operation](#) – they will begin twice-weekly flights from next week.

24th October – To read IATA's statement on UK Government's Heathrow expansion announcement – [see here](#).

24th October – [Swissport, the aviation supply chain firm](#), has opened a cargo facility at Manchester Airport, doubling annual handling capacity to 110,000 tons.

25th October - [Leeds Bradford Airport resumed normal operations after unexpected runway closure](#) disrupted flights overnight: damage found during a routine inspection.

26th October - [Air Peace Abuja-London flight](#) marks aviation milestone for Nigerian aviation.

26th October - [First Riyadh air flight touches down at London Heathrow](#).

27th October - [NATS' world-first Pairwise separation at Heathrow](#) is improving punctuality, cutting delays, and reducing carbon emissions, delivering greater efficiency and resilience.

27th October - The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport UK (CILT (UK)) responds to the EAC's latest report on airport expansion and climate targets – [see here](#).

27th October - New Manchester Airport route to Islamabad to bring huge boost to Northern communities – details are [here](#).

27th October – [Eastern Airlines, which flies to Humberside, Teeside International, Gatwick, and Newquay](#), has lodged a notice of intention to appoint an administrator.

28th October - [Loganair launches new Manchester routes](#) to Exeter and Southampton.

28th October - [CAA confirms Eastern Airlines have cancelled flights and advised passengers not to travel to airport](#). Airline has filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators.

28th October - [East Midlands Airport's Assisted Travel service wins national award that recognises initiatives that make travel more accessible](#). Award comes as the service marks the milestone of welcoming 100,000 customers in a year for the first time.

28th October - [easyJet preparing to roll out SITA Agent App across its network of over 150 airports](#) allowing ground crew to move away from fixed desks and assist passengers anywhere in the terminal. It is part of the drive to reduce infrastructure costs.

29th October – [Stansted Airport publishes Sustainability Report](#) showcasing its achievements over past 5 years delivering its strategy: [Working together for a brighter future](#).

29th October - [A fully reopened Doncaster Sheffield Airport is expected to operate at an £81 million loss for its first nine years](#), a new council report reveals.

30th October - East Midlands Airport appoints two new directors – details [here](#).

30th October - [Birmingham Airport launches AI-powered programme](#) providing passengers with the opportunity to receive real-time tailored updates directly to their smartphones.

30th October - Leeds Bradford Airport has achieved a perfect 100% score for the first time in its latest Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) assessment – details [here](#).

30th October – [Eastern Airlines has let go around 250 staff including all cabin crew](#) after cancelling all flights and filing for administration.

31st October – [Government says 85% of travellers are satisfied with UK airport screening experience](#). CAA survey asked over 15,000 respondents at seven airports (Birmingham, Gatwick, Heathrow, London City, Luton, Manchester and Stansted).

31st October – [This month, 15 students from local schools/colleges took part in 8th Futures Week event](#) held by London Biggin Hill Airport to promote careers in business aviation.

Other Aviation Industry News

1st October – This article: '[How you are subsidising Ryanair and Aer Lingus](#)' looks at how DAA is starting its campaign to increase the fees it charges airlines to use its airports.

1st October – [This article](#) looks at how lounges should be viewed as a core element in airport commercial infrastructure.

1st October – '[Toward net-zero aviation](#)': How renewable energy procurement offers airports immediate solutions.

2nd October - [Edinburgh Airport is getting private meeting pods](#) to address the modern trend of "meetings in motion". Users can book slots instantly for 30 minutes or longer.

2nd October - [Cranfield Airport decarbonises airside with hydrogen electric tug](#).

2nd October - Planning approval granted for the construction of a MetroLink service connecting Dublin Airport to the centre of the Irish capital. Details are [here](#) and [here](#).

2nd October - [International flights will return to Waterford Airport](#) if a €30m private funding project is approved which will see the airport's runway extended. More details are [here](#).

3rd October – Read article titled: '[Why Airlines & Airports Must Do More To Defend Against Cyberattacks](#)'.

3rd October - [Waterford Airport aims to ditch State funding bid for €30m international investor offer](#). Local council is being asked to cede its shareholding of airport.

3rd October - [Cork and Dublin Airports see passenger numbers soar in record September](#).

3rd October – [Aer Lingus warns that new airline slots at Dublin Airport will affect on-time performance](#). The slots are set to be introduced next summer.

4th October – Read: '[These Airlines Used to Fly Between London Heathrow & New York-JFK](#)'.

5th October - [Dublin airport's new drone defences 'not sufficient to block Russian incursions](#)', says Irish Department of Transport.

5th October - [Drones threaten European aviation](#): An increasing number of unidentified drones are violating the airspace of EU countries, jeopardizing air traffic.

6th October - [Rotterdam Airport requests a new airport permit](#) that prioritizes reducing noise/limiting environmental impact while maintaining current commercial flight capacity.

6th October - Cyber-security threats and mitigations in modern airports – read about it [here](#).

6th October – Interesting article titled: 'Why we rebuilt the airport brain, and what happened next' about the Airport Operational Database (AODB), can be [read here](#).

6th October - [New rules for operating drones near Prestwick come into effect](#). Applications for drone flights (within 5km) must now be submitted through online platform Air Portal.

7th October - [Jon Bridge has been appointed CEO of Cardiff Airport](#), known as the National Airport of Wales, effective November 3, 2025.

7th October – Read article: '[How different will the interiors of eVTOLs be to business jets?](#)'

8th October - [Shannon Airport group](#) has won the Chambers Ireland Environment & Biodiversity Award for its Thady's Hill conservation grazing project, part of its 5-year Biodiversity Action Plan.

8th October - [Passengers are frustrated by airport processes](#), SITA report shows.

8th October - Germany to allow police to shoot down drones – details are [here](#).

9th October - [City of Derry Airport has confirmed the return of its Derry/Londonderry to Dublin route](#), which was withdrawn back in 2011. It could resume as early as spring 2026.

9th October - [Daa signs €265m contract to construct airfield tunnel with joint venture](#).

9th October – [Glasgow Airport wins back New York flights after a 7-year gap](#). United Airlines will resume daily summer link to Newark, NJ - from May 8 to September 23 next year.

10th October – Read interesting article titled: '[How Europe might tackle the threat of drone incursions at airports](#)'.

10th October - [Europe launches new Entry/Exit System on 12 October 2025](#): What air travellers need to know.

11th October – Read article titled: '[Why the Boeing 747 Won't Be Retired Anytime Soon](#)'.

12th October - [Is Dublin Becoming the Next Gulf Gateway in Western Europe?](#)

13th October - [Inside aviation's 'deadliest year'](#): Experts reveal what has caused a succession of aircraft disasters in 2025 - and why they believe so many planes seem to be crashing now.

13th October – [ACI Europe: European airports saw 4.9% passenger growth in August](#) as summer travel demand stayed strong.

13th October – This article asks: '[What impact will the EU's Entry/ Exit System have on airports and their passengers?](#)'

14th October – Read [here](#) about the beginning today of the European Union's new biometric Exit/Entry System (EES).

14th October - [Sita has launched a high-speed fibre-optic service](#) that delivers "ultra-reliable", scalable and secure connectivity that could soon bypass copper cables in airports.

14th October - AGS Airports has confirmed the internal appointment of Gavin Williams as Managing Director - Operations of Glasgow Airport. Details on this are [here](#).

15th October - Energy logistics company Exolum to invest £4.5m to develop [UK's 1st independent SAF blending facility](#), part of plans for UK-wide network of SAF blending hubs.

15th October - [A tech firm developing driverless air taxis](#) has just unveiled a new long-range model that can fly 124 miles on a single charge.

16th October: '[Seamless travel: digital identity's golden use case](#)' : how digital identity and biometrics have emerged as critical technologies helping transform the experience of travel.

16th October - [Dublin Airport has revealed its 2025/26 winter season flight schedule](#), which will begin at the end of October and run through until the end of March 2026.

16th October - [New development planned between Edinburgh Airport and Edinburgh Gateway station faces delays](#). Developers request more time to finalise a legal agreement with the city council.

17th October - [Aer Lingus accused of 'union busting tactics'](#) after UK cabin crew plan strike.

17th October - [New Chinese flights depart from Prestwick Airport with Beijing Capital Airlines](#). It's 2nd Chinese route won since May and 3rd new freight service this year.

17th October - [Air New Zealand's first electric aircraft takes off on its maiden flight](#).

17th October – EU: report calls for greater investment in ATM – details are [here](#).

18th October - [easyJet announce expansion in Morocco](#) including new base at Marrakech Airport from spring 2026 as part of new partnership with National Tourism Office.

19th October - [Rising aviation service fees in Thailand](#), including airport charges and the proposed 300-baht tourism tax, could potentially hinder airlines, according to IATA.

20th October – [Biggest change to Edinburgh and Glasgow air routes for 70 years unveiled](#). Three-month consultation launched to shorten flights/cut emissions. See [NATS press release](#).

20th October – [This article](#) outlines how airports are responding to a raft of cyber regulations globally, addressing legacy systems and bolstering their supply chains.

21st October - [Dublin Airport welcomes decision granting permission for new Aircraft Observation Facility to be built at airport](#). This follows St. Margaret's The Ward appeal against Fingal County Council's earlier approval.

21st October - British Airways expands network with brand-new weekly route from Glasgow Airport to Palma de Mallorca – details are [here](#).

22nd October – [‘Seamless by design’](#): this article considers how blending digital and physical will transform the ‘airport experience’.

22nd October - European Union Aviation Safety Agency publishes [ReFuelEU Aviation Annual Technical Report](#), giving idea of how SAF is being supplied, purchased and used across EU.

23rd October - [Glasgow Airport’s FlightPath Fund reaches significant landmark](#) having awarded over £2 million to local community groups and charities since its launch in 2010.

23rd October - [Ryanair has carried more than 12m passengers to and from Ireland West Airport Knock](#) since it began operating at the Mayo airport in 1986.

24th October - Hydrogen production takes flight at Hamburg Airport with new infrastructure roadmap – details are [here](#).

24th October - [Ryanair 'likely' to operate flights from Waterford Airport](#). €30m investment proposal to overhaul airport was approved by Waterford City/County Council this week.

26th October - Passengers offer verdict of their Edinburgh Airport experience – [see here](#).

26th October - [Ryanair warns passengers about its paperless boarding pass policy which comes into effect 12 November](#). Passengers can no longer have a printed boarding pass with the carrier moving to a fully digital system through the Ryanair app.

27th October - [Glasgow Prestwick Airport host delegation from China Southern Air Logistics](#) for 2-day visit aiming to strengthen collaboration/support Scotland’s export growth.

27th October - [ACI World release publication designed to provide guidance on structuring and implementing private-sector involvement at airports](#) for concessionaires, investors, lenders, advisors, governments, and grantors.

28th October - The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has found that [in 2024, just 0.6% of all aviation fuel supplied at EU airports was sustainable aviation fuel \(SAF\)](#).

28th October - [Dublin Airport is investing over €600m to “transition to cleaner, smarter airport operations”](#) after securing multi-million-euro loan from European Investment Bank.

28th October – Read Scientific report titled: [‘Advancing sustainable aviation by integrating renewable solar energy into unconventional airport spaces using a spherical fuzzy CRITIC-RATGOS approach’](#).

29th October - Hydrogen is being used to power Kirkwall Airport in Scotland, in a UK-first demonstration. See details on this [here](#).

29th October - [Counter-drone technology provider DroneShield](#) has announced the publication of a [white paper](#) addressing counter-drone deployment in civil airports.

29th October - [SATS, provider of air cargo and ground handling services, has launched its Hub Handler of the Future programme](#) to support the operational demands of emerging mega airports built for high-capacity passenger and cargo movements.

29th October - [The European Investment Bank has confirmed a new €288m long-term loan to daa](#), the operator of Dublin and Cork airports.

30th October – This article is about how [drones drive UK land conservation](#).

30th October - Glasgow Prestwick Airport to expand India cargo operations – details [here](#).

30th October – [American Airlines to double number of routes to US from Edinburgh Airport](#) with return of direct service to New York and an extended season for its Philadelphia route.

31st October – This article is titled: [‘Building a vertiport network’](#).

31st October - Direct flights to Guernsey will be available from East Midlands Airport with Blue Islands from next summer – details are [here](#).

SASIG Library Additions

The agenda papers and supporting documentation from the SASIG members' meeting held online on 15 October, can be seen in the members' section of our website.