

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: March 2026

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

- **11 March** – [Gatwick's annual profits down: there was a 1.9% drop in passengers on short-haul flights](#), which it attributed to "temporary issues related to aircraft availability".
- **17 March** - [Doncaster Sheffield Airport has reached a significant milestone in its reopening strategy](#) following publication of [Airspace Change Proposal documents](#) by the CAA.
- **17 March** – Government's [Jet Zero Taskforce 2025 Annual Report](#) published.
- **20 March** – [CAA release 2025 data](#): 302 million passengers passed through UK airports last year. This is more than 825,000 a day, on average - an increase of 2% from year prior.
- **23 March** - [Heathrow Airport celebrates its 80th birthday this week](#). It officially opened as 'London Airport' on March 25, 1946, following two years of construction.
- **25 March** - [Royal Mail and Loganair launch UK's first electric mail flights](#).
- **27 March** - [New Aviation Policy consultation launched by Northern Irish Economy Minister](#) in recognition of the importance of air connectivity to Irish economy.
- **31 March** – CAA releases information relating to Heathrow price control review H8. See the summary document (CAP3232) [here](#). More details and access to supporting documents can be seen [here](#) or go to the link: [H8 initial proposals and associated documents](#).

Potential Actions for LAs

- Jet Zero Taskforce Annual report is an important update document which merits reading.
- For authorities in the vicinity of Heathrow the H8 regulatory process is an important parallel policy track to the ANPS and LHR DCO as it will determine viability and the funding available for mitigation associated with the R3 project.

SASIG Activities

- **4 March** - Chairman and Policy Director met with new DfT Officials to introduce them to SASIG and our policy agenda and priorities.
- **26 March** - SASIG submitted a response to the consultation on Areas for Producing Spatial Development Strategies.

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SASIG Website 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

Some of this month's news centres around publication of performance statistics: Firstly, Gatwick announced on 11 March that its annual profits were down. There was a 1.9% drop in passengers on short-haul flights, which it attributed to "temporary issues related to aircraft availability". But happily, the airport recorded "particularly strong growth" in long-haul markets.

Second, the long road to post-pandemic recovery continues as this month the CAA released its 2025 data which showed that 302 million passengers passed through UK airports last year. This is more than 825,000 a day, on average - an increase of 2% from the year prior - so the road to post-pandemic recovery seems to be continuing in the right direction.

In other news, Doncaster Sheffield Airport reached a significant milestone in its reopening strategy following publication of Airspace Change Proposal documents by the CAA. Doncaster's reopening remains something which SASIG monitors closely and with interest.

The Government's Jet Zero Taskforce 2025 Annual Report was published on 17 March. The Taskforce was established in 2024 and brings together Government and leaders from across the aviation and aerospace sectors, academia and NGOs to identify and remove barriers to aviation decarbonisation on the pathway to net zero. An example of this was Royal Mail, Loganair and US electric aerospace company BETA Technologies beginning the UK's first live demonstration of electric aircraft on operational postal routes this month, marking a significant step in the decarbonisation of regional aviation. The initial flight took place on 20 March between Glasgow and Dundee, with additional demonstration routes planned across Scotland's regional airport network, including Aberdeen, Inverness, Wick and Orkney.

A few days later on the 27 March saw the launch by the Northern Irish Economy Minister of a new Aviation Policy consultation in recognition of the importance of air connectivity to Irish economy. The consultation sets out a number of policy positions including plans to develop a route development scheme to enhance air connectivity.

The last day of the month saw the CAA release information relating to the Heathrow price control review H8. This is important so do take the time to see the summary document (CAP3232) [here](#) with more details and access to supporting documents seen [here](#).

And finally, for those that may be interested, did you know that Heathrow Airport celebrated its 80th birthday this month? It officially opened as 'London Airport' on March 25, 1946, following two years of construction. Just look at it now!

Chris Cain
Policy Director
SASIG

Events, Meetings and Conferences

SASIG Meetings

(To note: resulting from the impact of the pandemic, SASIG meetings are being held virtually, unless informed otherwise).

2025/26

Chairman's Advisory Group meeting (CAG):

Thursday: 21 May 2026 – 10 am (Online-for CAG members only)

SASIG Members' meeting/AGM:

Wednesday: 17 June 2026 – 10 am (Online)

External Conferences: (please note: dates can be subject to change).

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

31 August – 4 September 2026: [ACI Airport Experience Summit](#), Istanbul

Consultations Update: Recent and current:

Ongoing:

[Permitted development rights for onshore wind turbines in England \(18 March – 10 June 2026\)](#)

The government published a consultation on 18 March seeking views on several proposals for permitted development rights (PDRs) for onshore wind in England. They are not proposing change existing domestic PDRs that apply to households or introduce a new PDR for repowering or community energy projects. However, they are seeking further views and feedback on further changes that could support these types of development. They are also consulting on a new PDR that would allow small-scale, non-domestic wind turbines to be installed without the need for a planning application, subject to a set of conditions and limitations, to support small-scale onshore wind deployment. By providing planning flexibilities for low-impact, small-scale installations, the proposed PDR aims to support a range of non-domestic settings including businesses, farms, and public sector organisations to reduce their bills, become more energy independent and decarbonise their operations.

The consultation focuses on the types of sites a PDR should apply to, proposed limitations and conditions to control impacts, and the role of local planning authorities.

The consultation runs until 10 June 2026.

[UK Emissions Trading Scheme: Treatment of sustainable aviation fuel](#) (23 March 2026 – 15 June 2026)

In June 2023, the UK ETS Authority made a commitment to develop, then consult on, proposals regarding the claiming of emissions reductions from sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) by aircraft operators under the UK ETS. The Authority is now seeking views on options for the future treatment of SAF in the UK ETS.

They wish to ensure that SAF is accounted for appropriately in the UK ETS, taking into account interaction with the UK government's SAF Mandate which came into effect on 1 January 2025. This consultation, which was published on 23 March 2026, also considers potential operational changes to how SAF use under the UK ETS is regulated.

The consultation will run until 15 June 2026.

Parliamentary and Government News

3 March: [Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill](#) (House of Commons)

Consideration of Lords amendments

Ms Nusrat Ghani (Sussex Weald) informed the House that nothing in the Lords amendments engages Commons financial privilege.

Clause 1 - Direction to offer revenue certainty contract

[The Bill was returned from the Commons the next day](#) (4 March) with the Lords amendments agreed to.

17 March: [Isles of Scilly Transport](#)

Andrew George MP (St Ives) secured a debate about transport (including air) to and between the Isles of Scilly.

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

The House went into the Easter Recess on 27 March and will return on 12 April.

There were no Transport Questions in the House this month.

Transport Questions: House of Lords

The House went into the Easter Recess on 28 March and will return on 12 April.

4 March: [Local Government Reorganisation](#)

Lord John of Southwark asked the Government what progress they have made on local government reorganisation in England. See the debate [here](#).

Parliamentary Questions:

Q.1. Question (HL15060) asked by Baroness Pidgeon on 2 March 2026: “To ask His Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to establishing an ombudsman to oversee the aviation sector, in particular the work of the UK Civil Aviation Authority.”

A. Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill on 16 March 2026: “The work of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is subject to the oversight of Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

The Government has ensured that the CAA have a robust set of internal and external remedies for those who are dissatisfied with the CAA’s customer service.

The remedies are, successively: internal review by the CAA; consideration by the Independent Complaints Assessor; and referral via their Member of Parliament to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

These remedies cannot address dissatisfaction with a regulatory decision which the CAA has taken (such as an aviation safety decision) but regulatory decisions are subject to bespoke internal review procedures and subsequently in most cases, challenge by way of judicial review. There are some exceptions such as economic regulation decisions may be appealed to the Competition and Markets Authority and airline operating licence decisions may be appealed to the Secretary of State. Additionally, some airspace design decisions can be called-in to be made by the Secretary of State rather than the CAA.

These pathways are prominently set out on the CAA’s website, and we wish to see that they are used wherever appropriate”.

Q.2. Question (118041) asked by Joe Robertson (Isle of Wight East) on 2 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department has made recommendations to UK airports on increasing modal shift away from private car use”.

A. Keir Mather on 10 March 2026: “My Department has introduced a range of measures to encourage and support UK airports in moving passengers and staff away from private car use. All major UK Airports have been required to have a Surface Access Strategy since 2000, with clear modal-shift and sustainable transport objectives. Specific targets for airports to reduce private car modal share typically come from planning obligations linked to expansion proposals. In addition, my Department continues to invest in public transport networks to provide passengers with credible and convenient alternatives to car travel”.

Q.3. Question (117707) asked by Chris Evans (Caerphilly) on 4 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she is planning to improve rail links between South Wales and a) Gatwick and b) Heathrow.”

A. Keir Mather on 13 March 2026: “This Government is continuing to invest in the UK rail network at record levels, including at least £445 million of investment in the rail network in Wales announced at the Spending Review and backed up by the Prime Minister's recent endorsement of the Transport for Wales vision for the future of Welsh rail. This will support the creation of thousands of jobs, the building of new homes and improving opportunities for communities all across Wales.

Since December an additional late evening service has been added on the line between Reading and Gatwick Airport allowing more opportunities for passengers from South Wales to get to the airport. In the future, passengers from South Wales may be able to change

trains at the new Old Oak Common station for fast and frequent connections to Heathrow Airport once main line trains begin stopping there”.

Q.4. Question (118923) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 9 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 17 February 2026 to Question 110887 on Heathrow: Expansion, when she plans to consult on proposed amendments to the Airports National Policy Statement”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 March 2026: “As set out in my answer of 17 February 2026 to Question 110887, the Government expects to consult on any proposed amendments to the Airports National Policy Statement by the summer”.

Q.5. Question (118908) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 9 March 2026: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2026 to Question 116218, what comparative assessment she has made of the economic circumstances of UK civil airports between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2024”.

A. Dan Tomlinson on 17 March 2026: “The Valuation Office Agency assessed changes to the economic circumstances of airports as part of the 2026 Revaluation exercise, where average Rateable Values for civil airports have increased at the valuation date of 1 April 2024. The VOA announced updated property values for the 2026 revaluation at the Budget. This revaluation is the first since the pandemic, which has led to significant increases in rateable values for some properties as they recover from the pandemic. To respond to those who are seeing large increases, Government has already acted to limit increases in bills, announcing a support package worth £4.3 billion package at the Budget”.

Q.6. Question (118492) asked by Barry Gardiner (Brent West) on 6 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what work her department has taken to ensure overflowed communities are represented in the governance structure of the UK Airspace Design Service”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 March 2026: “The Government and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) jointly consulted on proposals to establish a UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) in 2024, and responses to that consultation, including from overflowed communities, has helped to inform our plans. Between 17 November 2025 and 12 January 2026 the CAA consulted on guidance for the UKADS, including governance and stakeholder engagement. The outcome of this consultation will be published by the CAA.

In addition, the CAA’s Airspace Change Process (CAP1616) sets out how airspace change proposals must be developed and delivered. A fundamental part of this process is the requirement for the airspace change sponsor, which would include the UKADS, to consult those who may be affected by airspace change and to consider their views before any final proposals are submitted”.

Q.7. Question (118494) asked by Barry Gardiner (Brent West) on 6 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what environmental duties will be placed on the UK Airspace Design Service”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 March 2026: “The UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) must follow the processes for airspace change, including environmental requirements, set by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in line with the Government’s Air Navigation Directions and Air Navigation Guidance. Any airspace change proposal must follow the CAA’s CAP1616 airspace change process. CAP1616 sets out how sponsors of airspace change, including the

UKADS, must undertake comprehensive environmental assessments for airspace options which are under consideration. There are also requirements for airspace change sponsors to provide sufficient information and carry out consultation with those who may be affected by a change, before any final proposals are submitted. A consultation on potential changes to the Air Navigation Directions and Air Navigation Guidance closed on 26 January 2026 and the outcome will be published later this year”.

Q.8. Question (118721) asked by Toby Perkins (Chesterfield) on 9 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the potential implications for her policies of current levels of global (a) production capacity of Sustainable Aviation Fuel and (b) demand for Sustainable Aviation Fuel”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 March 2026: “Significant analysis was undertaken during the development of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Mandate. Government considered global production capacity and the UK’s ability to access SAF for a range of SAF conversion processes, including hydro processed esters and fatty acids (HEFA). To ensure the SAF Mandate reflects the latest technological and commercial developments, there is continuous monitoring of trends and impacts of the Mandate.

HEFA will play an important role in the global SAF sector, particularly in the early years of the Mandate. However, the HEFA cap is to encourage the development of new technology pathways so that meeting the SAF Mandate is not reliant on HEFA feedstocks, which are likely to become scarcer. We have carefully balanced setting the HEFA cap in a way that recognises the fact HEFA is the only currently commercially available type of SAF to mitigate against unintended consequences.

The corresponding EU SAF Mandate does not place a cap on HEFA, however, the EU’s overarching Renewable Energy Directive does place a limit on certain feedstocks that can be used across transport uses. Officials regularly engage with European counterparts and stakeholders to understand policy developments in the EU and share learnings from SAF policy”.

Q.9. Question (119502) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 10 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2026 to Question 112226, what information on airport kerbside drop-off charges is discussed with her Department as part of engagement with airports on surface access strategies”.

A. Keir Mather on 16 March 2026: “As part of the Department’s engagement with airports, discussions cover a broad range of issues, including how passengers and staff travel to and from airports. However, the provision and charging of airport parking, including drop-off charges, is a commercial matter for each airport and the information on charges is publicly available through the airports’ own websites”.

Q.10. Question (119841) asked by Sammy Wilson (East Antrim) on 11 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the building of the third runway at Heathrow on flights from non-London airports”.

A. Keir Mather on 20 March 2026: “We are currently reviewing the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) and plan to consult on a revised ANPS in July 2026. The Department also plans to publish updated aviation passenger forecasts alongside the consultation. These forecasts will take account of the potential impact of the building of a third runway at

Heathrow on flights from non-London airports. As part of the review of the ANPS, the Department is also considering domestic connectivity from Heathrow”.

Q.11. Question (121844) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 18 March 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if the consultation on the draft ANPS will include community engagement events across a) London and b) the wider regions”.

A. Keir Mather on 27 March 2026: “Engagement during the consultation on any revised Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) draft will be proportionate to the amendments that are made. This will be considered as part of the ANPS review process. In line with the Planning Act 2008, any consultation on a revised ANPS will be appropriately publicised ensuring that affected communities and authorities are properly notified and able to engage in the consultation”.

Q.12. Question (122243) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 19 March 2026: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2026 to Question 118908, what assessment underpins increases in rateable values of up to 295% for UK civil airports between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2024; and what specific economic indicators were used to determine those increases”.

A. Dan Tomlinson on 31 March 2026: “All assessments are underpinned by statutory assumptions defined in Schedule 6 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. For the 2026 revaluation, we consider general economic circumstances and the receipts and expenditure relevant to individual airports at the valuation date 1 April 2024. As this is the first revaluation since Covid, a large number of ratepayers may see a significant increase in rateable value compared to the previous valuation date 1 April 2021, when the country was in a pandemic lockdown”.

National and Regional News

1st March - Read about the [small Scottish family firm that's become the world leader in stopping aircraft skidding off runways](#).

2nd March - Bristol Airport has chosen Farrans as main contractor for a £30m terminal extension project – see [here](#).

2nd March - [Luxaviation UK has added a third Embraer Praetor 600 to its fleet](#). The aircraft is available for charter and is based in Luton.

2nd March - [London City airport launches landing approach consultation](#) seeking shallower glideslope to accommodate more aircraft. If approved, it will take effect from 21 January 2027.

3rd March - [Cargo flights to China to take off from Teesside International Airport](#) after air freight carrier European Cargo confirmed a deal to create an operational base at the hub.

3rd March - Autonomous transport specialist Aurrigo International has been awarded a licence to provide ground handling services at East Midlands Airport – details [here](#).

4th March - [Exeter Airport has become the latest to trial hydrogen-powered ground support equipment](#) with a second test currently underway following an earlier trial last April.

4th March - [Industrial buildings near Norwich Airport to be demolished](#) to make way for future development.

5th March - [Manston Airport has launched Stage 3 public airspace consultation in pursuit of approval to reopen as an air freight hub](#). Consultation will run from 16 March to 22 June.

6th March – DfT assembling government lawyers to fight Information Commissioner's decision [it must release document summarizing lessons from the 2018 Gatwick drone chaos](#).

6th March - [‘Half a dozen’ drone incursions per day at Stansted Airport](#) according to the Chief Asset and Development Officer for the Airport.

8th March - London Gatwick to welcome 8 new airlines this year – more details on this [here](#).

8th March – [More details](#) on how Doncaster Sheffield Airport is to finally reopen 5 years after closing, under new £160m revamp.

9th March - [Throughput at Heathrow’s taxi rank fell in January compared with same month last year](#). Industry reps warn delays to technology upgrade continue to affect operations.

9th March – [Bristol Airport and Equilibrion complete fuels study](#) which demonstrates how South West of England could meet Bristol Airport’s growing demand for sustainable fuels.

10th March - China’s largest integrated logistics service provider flew into East Midlands Airport with its own aircraft for the first time on Sunday 8 March – details [here](#).

11th March - [Heathrow Airport says it is “full”](#) and has again pressed its case for expansion after experiencing its busiest ever February.

11th March - [Gatwick's annual profits down: there was a 1.9% drop in passengers on short-haul flights](#), which it attributed to "temporary issues related to aircraft availability".

13th March - [London Gatwick’s Route 4 airspace change proposal reaches halfway point](#) – there’s just six weeks left for communities and stakeholders to have their say.

13th March – [Read here](#) about UK’s only airport Youth Summit which took place this week at East Midlands airport hotel, to discuss how to achieve a sustainable future for aviation.

15th March - [Heathrow Airport recorded its busiest February on record](#) with 5.8 million passengers passing through its terminals.

16th March - [Bristol Airport announce plans to create a £10 million energy centre](#) to remove all gas boilers from the terminal, which is expected to be completed by winter this year.

16th March - Third consultation starts for Manston Airport plan – read the details [here](#).

16th March - New analysis shows which airports in the United Kingdom and across Europe have already introduced the new rules on carriage of liquids in hand luggage – see [here](#).

17th March - [Doncaster Sheffield Airport has reached a significant milestone in its reopening strategy](#) following publication of [Airspace Change Proposal documents](#) by the CAA.

17th March - [Manchester Airport introduces biometric system for mixed terminal ops](#). Biometrics in T2 enable domestic and international passengers to share infrastructure.

17th March – Government’s [Jet Zero Taskforce 2025 Annual Report](#) published.

18th March - In response to publication of [Jet Zero Taskforce 2025 Annual Report](#) published yesterday, [AirportsUK calls for UK government to build on work of the Taskforce](#).

19th March - [Stansted Airport launches new Turkish Airline service](#): it will operate up to 15 flights a week between London Stansted and Istanbul.

20th March - Quiet space and UK first sensory pod improve experience for neurodivergent travellers at East Midlands Airport – details [here](#).

20th March – [CAA release 2025 data](#): 302 million passengers passed through UK airports last year. This is more than 825,000 a day, on average - an increase of 2% from year prior.

22nd March - Up to 17-hour nonstop flights: London Heathrow's new ultra-long route revealed – details [here](#).

22nd March - [Singapore Airlines set to launch service to Gatwick Airport](#). Combined with the 4 daily flights it operates to Heathrow, its services to London will reach up to 6 daily flights.

23rd March – [Windsor MP says he is "firmly" against Heathrow expansion due to local infrastructure concerns](#) but is a "big advocate" of a new rail link to the airport.

23rd March - [London Stansted Airport: Undertaking a transformative expansion](#). Airport's Aviation Director reveals how £1.1 billion investment programme is set to transform airport.

23rd March - [Heathrow Airport celebrates its 80th birthday this week](#). It officially opened as 'London Airport' on March 25, 1946, following two years of construction.

25th March - [Newcastle Airport is planning new development](#) that could include expanded cargo hub on a 71 acre site south of the runway. Meanwhile, in other airport cargo news...

25th March - East Midlands Airport has been named as a finalist as Regional Cargo Hub Airport of the Year in the international Air Cargo Week Awards. Details are [here](#).

26th March - [London Stansted is gearing up for a bumper Easter getaway](#) with around 1.5 million passengers expected to pass through the terminal over the school holiday period.

26th March - [London Gatwick celebrates largest airline launch in a decade as Jet2 takes off](#). Airline's arrival has created over 300 local jobs, including pilots, engineers and cabin crew.

26th March - [East Midlands Airport hosted over 500 students from across the region](#), giving them a hands-on introduction to the world of aviation at first Aviation Careers Festival.

26th March - [easyJet to launch London Gatwick to Newquay flights for summer 2026](#). Flights will operate twice a week from 23 June 2026.

27th March - Heathrow invites 'real-time' expert scrutiny on £33bn expansion plans to avoid HS2 'mistakes' – details are [here](#). Still with Heathrow.....

27th March - The three new long-haul airlines you'll see at Heathrow in 2026 – details [here](#).

27th March – Gatwick Airport recognised as London's highest ranked airport for overall passenger experience in the latest Airport Service Quality (ASQ) results – details [here](#).

28th March – [A final date has been given for the closure of Coventry Airport by the Civil Aviation Authority](#) with businesses told they must leave by May.

30th March - [London Luton Airport has completed a significant £18 million investment in resurfacing its runway](#). The project was delivered by experts over 5 months of night work.

30th March - [Air France has officially touched down at Gatwick airport with a twice daily service to Paris–Charles de Gaulle](#) – the first time Air France has been at LGW since 1996.

30th March - [Manchester Airport installs biometric passenger identification at Terminal 2](#), allowing domestic/international passengers to share same departure/arrival infrastructure.

31st March – CAA releases information relating to Heathrow price control review H8. See the summary document (CAP3232) [here](#) and to see more details and to access a large number of supporting documents please see [here](#) or go to the link shown below: [H8 initial proposals and associated documents](#). CAA press release is [here](#).

Other Aviation Industry News

1st March – Read about [the aircraft replacing the Airbus A380 on high-capacity routes](#).

2nd March – Anas Sarwar said if he becomes first minister, his party will prioritise the construction of a rail link between Glasgow city centre and the airport. [Details here](#).

2nd March – [Ryanair has condemned plans by the DAA](#), the operator of Dublin Airport to raise its fees by 10% over the next 12 months.

2nd March - [Galway Chamber has strongly criticised Government](#) for what it said is the prioritising of Dublin Airport expansion and "sidelining" Ireland West and Shannon airports.

3rd March – Read interesting article titled: '[From Silos to Synergy: How Data Sharing is Transforming Airports](#)' about how data from ATC, airlines, and airports can work in unison.

4th March - [Aer Lingus Regional have announced it will offer over 750,000 seats on sale for this summer from Belfast City Airport](#) highlighting a 25% increase year-on-year.

4th March - Belfast International Airport has confirmed it will increase its drop off zone charges as of Monday 9th March – details [here](#).

5th March - [Passenger traffic across Europe's airports increased by +4.6% in January](#) compared to same month a year ago according to latest figures released by ACI EUROPE.

6th March – [Survey says a majority of local residents support Dublin Airport growth](#) but only half of residents in local area think airport is 'open and transparent'. More details are [here](#).

6th March - [Air Charter Scotland increases capacity on the Wick-Aberdeen-Wick PSO route](#), introducing 10 more seats daily from Monday to Friday and Sunday.

6th March – [Details on EC consultation on draft General Block Exemption Regulation on State aid](#) with potential extension of operating aid to airports up to 500.000 pax per year.

8th March - [Scottish firm Ecojet Airlines](#) billed as the world's first all-electric airline and set up in 2023, has plunged into liquidation following a reported bid to raise £20million.

9th March - Autonomous vehicle developer Aurigo International secures £6m airport transit contract – details [here](#).

9th March - [Dublin Airport passenger numbers up almost 10% in February](#). It's the busiest ever February in the airport's 86-year history.

10th March -Read article titled: '[Why lifecycle cost optimisation matters for airports](#)'.

11th March – '[The future of baggage screening is becoming a systems question](#)' explores how airports are shifting towards integrated, connected screening systems.

11th March – [Holiday flight prices surge amid Iran war chaos](#): jet fuel hits \$300 a barrel.

13th March - Project team announced for Oban Airport development – read about it [here](#).

14th March - [US airlines have called for immediate laws to remove the Dublin Airport passenger cap](#), saying the measure "disproportionately impacts" American carriers.

16th March - [EirTrade Aviation has received full planning permission to expand its facility at Knock, Ireland West Airport](#), adding a new 10,500 sqm facility to the their existing site.

16th March - [Scottish government to provide up to £663,000 to help fund subsidised flights between Wick/Aberdeen until 14 August](#). The future of the PSO route was thrown into question after the previous operator, Eastern Airways, entered administration in November.

16th March - [Air China Cargo has increased its cargo service between Glasgow Prestwick Airport and Chengdu Shuangliu Int. Airport](#) from four weekly flights to a daily service.

16th March - [Glasgow Prestwick Airport has issued a warning over drone use near the airfield](#). There is a 5km restriction zone around the airport.

17th March – Read article titled: '[How sustainable aviation fuel is reshaping the industry's path to net zero, one gallon at a time](#)'.

17th March - [SITA's new white paper](#): Optimising individual processes is no longer enough. Airports can unlock hidden capacity by aligning operational decisions in real time.

18th March - [Committee hears calls to withdraw passenger cap legislation at Dublin Airport](#).

18th March - Dublin Airport announces the re-opening of one of its most popular airside passenger lounges, alongside the opening of a new lounge in Terminal 1 – details [here](#).

20th March - [Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise jointly investing over £15 million](#) in expansion of Ryanair's maintenance facility at Prestwick Airport creating around 450 skilled engineering jobs and apprenticeships.

20th March - [Loganair to make UK aviation history](#) by being the first commercial airline to fly an all-electric aircraft across its network.

22nd March - [Global airlines suffer worst financial shock since pandemic](#). Iran war has wiped over \$50 billion off market value of world's largest carriers amid fears of fuel shortages.

24th March - [Dublin Airport passenger cap sent air fares soaring, DAA to tell TDs](#). State airport company to push Oireachtas to pass Bill soon so limit can be scrapped.

24th March - Airports Council International has published the latest results of its Airport Carbon Accreditation programme. The report covers May 2024 to May 2025 – see [here](#).

25th March - [Aer Lingus CEO tells TDs and Senators passenger cap is 'economically catastrophic'](#) as airlines and DAA press for speedy action on legislation.

25th March – ['Data in action: Why airports can't afford to get this wrong'](#). Data is positioned as strategic asset that will unlock efficiency, resilience and better passenger experiences.

25th March - [Workers at Scottish Government-owned HIAL airports secure new pay deal](#) and elsewhere in Scotland, [Royal Mail and Loganair launch UK's first electric mail flights](#).

26th March – Read Interesting article from BBC Transport correspondent Theo Leggett titled: ['Prepare for turbulence - how a prolonged Middle East conflict could reshape how we fly'](#).

26th March – Read [article about how the aviation industry must operate on tight margins](#): a new report highlights efficiencies possible by selecting the optimum smart fluids and oils.

27th March - [Higher air fares and loss of flights to US on the horizon if Dublin Airport cap remains](#). Axe the Dublin Airport passenger cap, airline bosses tell politicians. [Minister for Transport said it's "possible" that legislation to abolish it will be in place by September](#).

27th March - [New Aviation Policy consultation launched today by Northern Irish Economy Minister](#) in recognition of the importance of air connectivity to Irish economy.

29th March – Ryanair: two new routes from Glasgow Airport to London Stansted and Warsaw – details [here](#).

30th March - Airports and airlines call for suspension of Schengen Entry-Exit System rollout 'where operationally necessary' – details [here](#).

30th March – [Ryanair announce £40 million expansion of its maintenance facility at Prestwick Airport](#) with construction of a 11,938m heavy maintenance hangar and additional component workshops.

31st March - [IATA Director General Willie Walsh has warned that Dublin Airport's passenger cap](#) poses a “real and immediate risk” to Ireland’s economic growth.

SASIG Website Library Additions

A presentation that is a snapshot based on the DfT’s initial review of responses to their Air Navigation Directions and Air Navigation Guidance (AND & ANG) consultation, which ran from 25 November 2025 to 26 January 2026, can be seen in the Industry Reports and Papers section.

An update on the UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS) progress to date and, additional to a presentation given by guest speaker, Tim Johnson, CAA at the SASIG meeting held on 25 February, can be viewed in the Meeting Papers section along with Tim’s original presentation.