

Government News	Westminster Committees		
<p>4 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">London Assembly's Transport Committee begin call for evidence as London airport capacity investigation is launched</a> The investigation will look into existing capacity and will identify issues that the Government's independent Airports Commission should take into account when considering the options for airport expansion. The Assembly aims to collect evidence and views from aviation experts, business leaders, environmentalists and the general public to ensure all opinions are considered.</p> <p>The Committee will hold two public meetings with experts as part of its investigation on 15 Jan. 2013 and 6 Feb. 2013 and produce its findings by May 2013. It welcomes written submission until 28 Feb. 2013. The final report will be submitted to the Airports Commission in May 2013.</p> <p>4 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">Transport Minister Simon Burns to visit Manston Airport to discuss new airport rail links</a></p> <p>4 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">Director General for HS2 announced as David Prout, currently a Director General at the Department of Communities and Local Government</a> Mr Prout will join the Department for Transport in the New Year in a newly-created post taking charge of the delivery of HS2.</p>	<p>3 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">Heathrow and Gatwick airport bosses clash over Heathrow third runway during Transport Select Committee meeting over aviation policy and competition</a> Stewart Wingate, Gatwick chief executive, told the Commons Transport Select Committee he would oppose a third runway at Heathrow and wanted to see Gatwick develop as a competing hub airport. He rejected suggestions that the South East was facing an airport crisis and said: "There's a lot of capacity in the system. The challenge is how to make better use of it in the short term."</p> <p>Colin Matthews, Heathrow chief executive, told the committee a third runway was needed at Heathrow to strengthen its role as a premier hub airport and avoid losing international business. He said that since 2003 Heathrow had lost the equivalent of 1,500 flights to China because there were no take-off and landing slots for them.</p> <p>4 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">Airports review is doomed to gather dust, British Airways (BA Ltd) chief executive warns Transport Select Committee</a> BA Ltd Chief Executive, Willie Walsh, suggested the government's airports review will simply end up on a shelf, and major airlines will, "still be operating from a two-runway airport at Heathrow in 2050". He added that airlines will only pay for <a href="#">expansion at Heathrow</a>.</p> <p>The full debate can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>		
Autumn Statement	House of Commons Questions		
<p>5 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">Association of British Travel Agents comment on air passenger duty rise</a></p> <p>5 Dec. 2012 - <a href="#">British Air Transport Association (BATA) comment on Autumn Statement</a> Responding to today's Autumn Statement, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of BATA said, "While we welcome the Chancellor's announcement of over a billion pounds of additional investment in UK road transport infrastructure, we regret that the Coalition Government continues to stand in the way of private investment in new runway capacity where it is most needed. "</p> <p>5 Dec. 2012 – DeHavilland, SASIG's Parliamentary monitoring service has produced briefings on the Autumn Statement: implications of the Statement on investment in energy and the environment and a second briefing on transport and infrastructure.</p> <p>The briefing documents can be found on the SASIG website (December Parliamentary and Government News Bulletin) <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Secretary of State discussions with airlines on the introduction of transatlantic and trans-Asian routes from Liverpool Airport</a> (see 'Liverpool Airport') – Rotheram, S – 30 Nov. 2012</p> <p><a href="#">Assessment of the potential effect of a third runway at Heathrow Airport on air pollution</a> – Goldsmith, Z – 3 Dec. 2012 - (see 'Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution')</p> <p><a href="#">Evaluation of plans to allocate £0.5bn for a western rail connection to Heathrow Airport</a> - Clifton-Brown, G – 3 Dec. 2012 - (see 'Heathrow Airports: Railways')</p> <th data-bbox="1120 1316 2199 1350">SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates</th> <td data-bbox="1120 1350 2199 1498"><p>The next SASIG meeting will be on:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Friday 1 March 2013, 11.00am – 1.00pm</li></ul><p>Meetings are held at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; <a href="#">location map</a>.</p></td>	SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates	<p>The next SASIG meeting will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Friday 1 March 2013, 11.00am – 1.00pm</li></ul> <p>Meetings are held at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; <a href="#">location map</a>.</p>