



Department
for Transport

Keith Artus
Chairman
SASIG

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Robert Courts MP

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Dear Keith,

Thank you for your email of 7 September, about the Airspace Change Organising Group's (ACOG) Airspace Modernisation Masterplan. I am pleased to hear you found my letter of 9 August reassuring that the masterplan must comply with extant Government policy.

In response to your concerns over policy being a specific requirement in the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) 'Airspace Change Masterplan – CAA acceptance criteria' and 'Airspace Change Masterplan - assessment framework', I would like to confirm that both documents give reference to the co-sponsors role in confirming that the masterplan is consistent with Government policy as part of the assessment process.

Therefore, ACOG's masterplan will be assessed on whether it is compliant with Government policy, including noise policy, before it can be accepted as part of the Airspace Modernisation Strategy by the CAA. The CAA must also consult with the Secretary of State for Transport before the masterplan is accepted.

I fully appreciate the importance for SASIG and other community and environmental groups to feel they can support the final masterplan. To help achieve this, the CAA's 'Airspace Change Masterplan - assessment criteria' document sets out that ACOG must conduct a public engagement exercise on Iteration 3 of the Masterplan. Input from this engagement must be incorporated into the final draft of Iteration 3 before it is submitted to the co-sponsors for assessment.

I would like to reassure you that my officials have regular engagement with both the CAA and ACOG to help ensure that their work is consistent with the aims and objectives of all relevant departmental policy, and that stakeholders views are given due consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Courts', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

ROBERT COURTS MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY