

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: December 2022

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. The parliamentary debate on regional airport connectivity (see Transport Questions 6th December) is both interesting and topical as is the Lords Debate on Northern Ireland, but mostly for the exchanges with Lord Deben (Chairman of the Climate Change Commission) and other of their Lordships about trains not planes (Transport Questions in the Lords 7th December on the cost of Travel) and the way in which the Aviation Minister answered their questions.
2. [EU signs agreement to raise price airlines pay for emissions](#). Free allowances will be reduced by 25% in 2024 and 50% in 2025, before being completely removed by 2026. (8 December)
3. Government to relax the rules on airport liquids from the summer of 2024. See DfT announcement [here](#). (15 December)

Potential Actions for LAs

Note the SASIG members meeting on 19th January and associated papers distributed in support.

SASIG Activities

The Westminster Business Forum event on drones at which SASIG Chairman Keith Artus is speaking.

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Editorial

Parliament adjourned for the Christmas holidays on 20th December so there is only a relatively short month to report on in this Bulletin. There were some interesting debates at the beginning of the month which merit a brief viewing (Transcripts can be accessed via links provided under Transport Questions) as much for the approach of the new Ministers taking on the Aviation portfolio under the Sunak administration as the detailed content, although there are some important issues highlighted by MPs and Lords contributing to the debates.

Other significant developments were Newcastle Airport's green funding package, Luton's consultation on a Net Zero Roadmap, and Cranfield University's report on UK aviation achieving net zero within 20 years. These can be found in an unusually full log of Regional and Industry News covering 4-5 pages of this Bulletin.

Chris Cain
Policy Director
SASIG

Events, Meetings and Conferences

SASIG Meetings

(To note: depending on any restrictions continuing, some of these meetings may be held virtually. It is therefore advised to check with the Secretariat first before making any travel arrangements).

19 January 2023: 10:30: SASIG members' meeting - virtual.

External Conferences: (please note: due to the continuing impact of the pandemic, some changes may have occurred).

31st January 2023: ['Next steps for drone regulation and use in the UK'](#): Westminster Business Forum: online. N.B. SASIG's Chairman will be one of the guest speakers.

9-11 May 2023: [Routes Europe 2023](#): Lodz, Poland.

19-20 August 2023: [International Conference on Sustainable Aviation](#): London

Parliamentary and Government News

The House of Commons rose for the Christmas Recess on 20 December 2022 and will return on 9 January 2023. The House of Lords rose a day later on 21 December 2023 and will also return on 9 January 2023.

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

6th December – Blackpool Airport: Public Service Obligation Funding

The House was asked by Mark Menzies (Fylde) whether it has considered public service obligation funding and Blackpool Airport. See the debate [here](#).

7th December – English Freeports: Final Government Approval

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities gave a statement on the UK freeport programme. See the statement [here](#).

Transport Questions: House of Lords

7th December – Aviation: Cost of Travel

The Government was asked what assessment they have made of the options for reducing the cost of travelling by plane from Great Britain to (1) Northern Ireland, and (2) other parts of the United Kingdom not attached to the mainland. See the debate [here](#).

Parliamentary Questions:

Q.1. Question (104107) asked by Laurence Robertson (Tewkesbury) on 6 December 2022: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing arrivals duty free policies in airports on (a) tax revenue and (b) job creation; and if he will make a statement”.

A. James Cartlidge on 9 December 2022: “Duty-free on arrival, which would apply to inbound passengers, would place additional pressure on the public finances to which excise duty makes a significant contribution. Any loss in tax revenue would have to be balanced by a reduction in public spending, increased borrowing or increased taxation elsewhere. Although there are no plans to introduce such a scheme, the government keeps all taxes under review”.

Q.2. Question (101754) asked by Ranil Jayawardena (North East Hampshire) on 2 December 2022: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to make sure that the noise impacts of airports are appropriately assessed and action taken”.

A. Jesse Norman on 8 December 2022: “The Government sets noise-related restrictions at the noise-designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) and ensures these airports assess their noise impacts on an annual basis. For these designated airports, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) produces noise exposure contours. These inform Government of areas significantly affected by aircraft movements, and therefore those communities most likely to suffer aircraft noise-related health outcomes, which should be prioritised by policy interventions. At other airports, restrictions are set locally, usually through the planning system. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to conduct any necessary noise assessment and to enforce any restrictions. Major airports with more than 50,000 movements per year are also obliged under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, as amended, to produce noise maps and Noise Action Plans. Current Noise Action Plans cover the period 2019-2023, while the next round of planning will cover the period 2024-2028”.

Q.3. Question (HL4177) asked by Lord Scriven on 8 December 2022: “To ask His Majesty's Government whether the Manchester Recovery Task Force formally consulted (1) Sheffield City Council, (2) the Mayor of South Yorkshire, and (3) Doncaster Council, on the withdrawal of the direct Sheffield to Manchester Airport train service; and if so, (1) on what dates, and (2) what responses were received”.

A. Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 16 December 2022: “The Manchester Taskforce received over 800 responses from stakeholders. These included the Mayor of South Yorkshire, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield City Region Transport and Environment Board, which includes representatives from Doncaster Council, and which were received between 5 and 18 March 2021. The full list of respondents can be found on page 27 under Annex A of the summary document produced after the consultation closed”.

Q.4. Question (HL4116) asked by Lord Scriven on 7 December 2022: “To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the decision by the Manchester Recovery Task Force to terminate the direct train service between Sheffield and Manchester Airport, when they expect that service to be reinstated”.

A. Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 15 December 2022: “Early in 2020 we set up the Manchester Recovery Task Force, a cross-industry group comprising both the train operators and Network Rail, to work collaboratively together for the first time to look at

ways of solving the performance problems of Manchester's complex railway network, in the short term through timetable changes and in the long term through developing a package of infrastructure enhancements. Analysis by the task force showed that, pre-Covid, three services were particularly poor performers in central Manchester and had a significant impact on the transfer of delays across the network. One of the three was South Yorkshire to Manchester Airport services which reverse at Manchester Piccadilly, consuming two train paths in each direction. These trains impact on the Castlefield Corridor through the reversing moves they make. As new infrastructure is realised and longer trains allow for a greater capacity with less congestion, we will look at services that could be reintroduced while maintaining a reliable timetable".

Q.5. Question (104121) asked by Andrew Selous (South West Bedfordshire) on 6 December 2022: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) providing funding and (b) implementing mechanisms to help support sustainable aviation fuel through a (i) Contracts for Difference mechanism or (ii) equivalent scheme".

A. Jesse Norman on 12 December 2022: "The Government recognises the significant challenges facing investment in emerging technologies such as SAF. That is why the Government launched the £165 million Advanced Fuels Fund in July and is actively looking at what more is needed to create the long-term conditions for competitive SAF projects in the UK. The Department recently commissioned an independent review to look at evidence that industry has provided regarding the barriers, opportunities and conditions required for a competitive SAF industry in the UK. More information will be provided on this in due course, subject to interactions with wider fiscal events".

Q.6. Question (101724) asked by Stella Creasy (Walthamstow) on 2 December 2022: "To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Retained EU Law Bill, whether plans he plans to (a) replace, (b) revoke or (c) retain the Civil Aviation (Denied Boarding, Compensation and Assistance) Regulations 2005".

A. Jesse Norman on 7 December 2022: "The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its stock of Retained EU Law. This workstream will be dynamic as we carefully consider all the options and opportunities available".

Q.7. Question (HL4318) asked by Lord Weir of Ballyholme on 14 December 2022: "To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with representatives of Northern Irish (1) airports, or (2) airlines, operating routes from Northern Ireland focused on increasing air connectivity between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK".

A. Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 20 December 2022: "The number of flights between Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB) is currently very strong with several competing services between Belfast and London, and routes from NI to several cities throughout the UK. The Government also continues to support the Public Service Obligation (PSO) from Derry/Londonderry to London".

National and Regional News

1st December - [Manchester Airport plans to become first UK airport with hydrogen fuel pipeline](#). It's believed that hydrogen-powered aircraft will come into operation in mid-2030s.

1st December - [Newcastle International Airport gets over £200m to accelerate green projects](#). It's secured its first ever sustainable finance package totalling £208m from four major lenders.

1st December - [£2m airfield maintenance completed at Birmingham Airport](#).

1st December - [London City Airport appoints Andrew Hodges as new Chief Commercial Officer](#). He starts in February 2023 and has 25 years' experience in the airline sector.

2nd December - [Heathrow Airport strikes in lead-up to Christmas to see hundreds of workers walk out](#). Ground handlers are unhappy over pay.

4th December - [Bristol Airport hike parking charges for Christmas week by almost a third](#). Only two other airports in Britain have increased parking charges by more. Meanwhile it starts a £4m redevelopment of departures - including new Boots store - see [here](#).

5th December - [Luton Council launches a public consultation on its Net Zero Roadmap](#). It sets out how its vision of a net zero town by 2040 will be achieved including Luton Airport.

5th December - Bristol Airport commences £4m redevelopment of retail facilities - see [here](#).

5th December - [Gatwick campaign group urges MPs to back new anti-pollution law](#).

6th December - [Govt will not introduce airport-specific EU visas post-Brexit, says aviation minister](#). She said it was up to everyone working in the sector to establish a "sustainable and secure UK workforce that meets our needs, [and] that is diverse and skilled."

7th December - British Airways' new subsidiary BA Euroflyer, which operates international short-haul services from Gatwick, has been granted its own Air Operator's Certificate and operating licence by the CAA - see [here](#).

7th December - [Gatwick Airport issues five-point checklist for passengers booking with 'meet and greet' parking companies](#) after complaints soar.

8th December - [Bournemouth Airport](#): Ryanair announce increase in capacity and new 2023 routes.

8th December - [Gatwick Airport: Drivers urged not to fall foul of rogue parking firms](#).

8th December - [Post-Covid recovery continues at Stansted Airport](#). Its operator is predicting passenger numbers will continue to grow, despite the cost-of-living crisis.

8th December - [Luton Airport expansion blueprint set to be submitted in early 2023](#). A deadline target of end of February is being worked towards by Luton Borough Council's airport company to produce its development consent order (DCO) plans for future growth.

9th December - [Hydrogen South West to host UK's airport hydrogen hub](#). Bristol Airport alongside Airbus and easyJet has joined UK's network of 'ZEROe' agreements to become an Airport Hydrogen Hub.

9th December - [Ryanair CEO promises 'quieter' planes won't bother locals as Bournemouth Airport expands](#). The budget airline is adding new routes and more frequent flights.

10th December - An article titled: 'The Heathrow Battle Continues: Price Cap Arguments Intensify' is [here](#).

10th December - UK airport border force strikes will impact over 10,000 flights - see [here](#).

11th December - [Gatwick and Stansted airports close runways due to heavy snow](#).

11th December - Hitchin: Luton Airport's £281m direct air train shuttle is 'game changer' for the area - more details [here](#).

12th December - An interview with John Irving, CEO of Liverpool Airport, at World Aviation Festival 2022 can be seen [here](#).

13th December - [Belfast City Airport welcomes Aer Lingus Regional's two new routes to Newquay and Jersey](#). Both routes will start in Spring next year.

13th December - CAA praises airports for improving disabled access levels. See details [here](#).

13th December – [Heathrow is UK's best airport for things to do before flight says new study](#).

14th December - [Findings show UK is missing out on millions in arrivals duty free sales](#).

14th December - [Zero emission aviation could be reality in UK in 20 years](#). New study from Cranfield University shows the transition could happen sooner than previously anticipated.

15th December - [Government to relax the rules on airport liquids from the summer of 2024](#). Airport operators hailed the announcement as “a great step forward for UK air travel.” See DfT announcement [here](#).

15th December - [‘Greener Future’ grant scheme](#) launched by London Luton Airport.

16th December - [Heathrow ground handler strikes suspended after improved pay offer](#).

17th December - [Odd-shaped building near Gatwick that used to be airport's only terminal](#). The Beehive was once Gatwick's main terminal before it became the airport it is today.

17th December – [Campaign group write festive song in protest at Gatwick night flights](#). People living around airport say night flights are “anti-social and cause health problems”.

18th December - Stansted records its strongest recovery in passenger volumes yet in November – see [here](#).

19th December – [London City Airport wants to open longer and up passenger cap 38%](#). It applied to London Bo. Newham today to change operational permissions following consultation. More details are [here](#).

19th December - [Loganair to boost operations at Newcastle for Summer 2023](#). The expansion plans include a double-daily flight to Aberdeen with a daily onward flight to Oslo.

20th December – CAGNE raise objects over Gatwick runway consultants. Details [here](#).

20th December - [Drivers to Bristol Airport 'feel mugged' by road sign 'trap' that leaves them charged £9 for entering city's new Clean Air Zone](#). Motorists have slammed "massive trap".

21st December - [Teesside Airport cargo facility takes off](#). The fully accredited facility most recently worked with aviation services group Air Partner to handle its first export.

21st December - Wizz Air announces four new routes from Gatwick Airport and London Luton Airport. Further details are [here](#).

22nd December - [Flights between the 21 December and 4 January will remain 14% lower than pre-pandemic levels](#) according to data from aviation analytics firm Cirum.

22nd December - [The first flights to Venice from Bournemouth Airport take off](#). Meanwhile, the airport's goal of becoming a strategic air freight hub for UK has come closer as based carrier European Cargo has received EASA certification for its Airbus A340 wide-bodied freighter conversion programme. See details [here](#).

22nd December - [Birmingham Airport says it's more than a third of its way to becoming net-zero-carbon](#). In April it published its carbon roadmap setting out plan to become a net-zero-carbon airport by 2033.

23rd December - [Delays expected at UK airports](#) as Border Force strike gets underway. The industrial action is set to continue until December 31st.

23rd December - [Campaigners opposed to Heathrow's 3rd runway plans vow to keep up their fight](#). Stop Heathrow Expansion say it'll keep working to "see this threat off for good".

24th December – An article titled: “Which UK commercial airports have the longest active runways?” is [here](#).

25th December – [Gatwick's busiest day for departures over the festive period is expected to be Friday 30 December](#). The next busiest would be Friday 23 December.

25th December – [‘The History Of London Stansted Airport’](#). What is now the fourth busiest airport in the UK began life as a small rural airfield.

26th December – See [here](#) for video interview with Chris Woodroffe, Managing Director at Manchester Airport.

27th December - [Flights from Bournemouth Airport: 32 places you can fly to in 2023](#) including Tenerife, Majorca, and Venice. It's the busiest year yet for the airport.

28th December - [Border Force staff begin the second in a series of strikes at UK airports until New Year's Eve](#). Many of them work in passport control.

29th December – See [here](#) for article about the three things UK travellers most commonly look up before travelling.

30th December – Watch [interview](#) at the International Airport Review Summit 2022 with Kate Rawlings-Brown, Director of Digital Transformation at MAG.

31st December – An article titled: ‘Which UK airports had the most delays and cancellations this Autumn?’ is [here](#).

Other Aviation Industry News

1st December - [Young people speak up at Stansted Airport Youth Forum](#). They are working with Stansted Airport to shape how it interacts with the community.

1st December - [Loganair wants to develop regional connectivity from Heathrow](#). It operates services to Isle of Man from Heathrow and has now secured permanent slots at LHR.

2nd December - EU agrees to “watershed” inclusion into the carbon market for shipping and now has eyes on aviation. Details [here](#).

3rd December - [Emerald Airlines awarded PSO air contract between Dublin and Donegal](#).

4th December - New Christmas bus services available to Stansted Airport – see [here](#).

5th December – An article titled: ‘Logistics UK: Heathrow Airport – the sky is the limit’ about air freight is [here](#).

5th December - [Belfast City CEO eyes traffic growth and, International Routes](#). CEO says a more diverse airline mix is helping to drive recovery at the Northern Ireland airport.

6th December - Recovery of global airline sector is fragile, says IATA. See [here](#) for details.

6th December - New APU monitoring technology designed to reduce airport ground emissions. More details can be seen [here](#).

6th December - [Rolls-Royce and easyjet successfully test 100% hydrogen-fuelled jet engine](#).

7th December - Wizz Air presents its most modern and sustainable aircraft – see [here](#).

8th December - [Virgin Atlantic CEO unhappy with Heathrow 2023 price cap](#). He’s putting pressure on CAA to adjust its passenger forecasts and prioritize the needs of passengers.

8th December – [easyjet reveal plans for expansion at Liverpool Airport](#). An additional Airbus A320 aircraft will be based at Liverpool this summer.

8th December - [EU signs agreement to raise price airlines pay for emissions](#). Free allowances will be reduced by 25% in 2024 and 50% in 2025, before being completely removed by 2026.

9th December – HIAL bosses say strikes will completely close three of their airports this month – see [here](#).

9th December – Article titled: ‘The Top 10 most searched airport-related questions’ is [here](#).

9th December - [Dublin Airport: Pilots forced to take evasive action after being targeted by lasers](#). At least five planes were targeted one night last week.

10th December - [Edinburgh prepares for record North America summer schedule with 10 routes](#). It will be their highest-ever number when they start next year.

10th December – An article titled: ‘Arriving at the Airport ‘Ready to Fly’ is Closer to Reality with New Industry Standards’ can be read [here](#).

11th December - [Dublin Airport says it will meet Christmas demand](#). Row over number of security lanes to be kept open continues between DAA and Ryanair.

12th December – An amusing article titled: ‘Llandegley International: The Airport That Never Was Finally Closes After 20 Years’ can be read [here](#).

12th December - [Cork to be first Irish airport to reach pre-COVID passenger numbers](#). In what’s been its busiest year since the pandemic, it’s welcomed back 85% of its pre-pandemic traffic.

13th December - [Recovery in European airport passenger traffic ‘stalls’](#). Figures from airports association ACI Europe show that the month’s traffic was still 12% lower than October 2019.

13th December - [FedEx Express Europe has installed package sorting technology at London Stansted Airport](#). It’s been implemented to speed up flow of exports through the facility. Meanwhile, Air Partner partners with Teesside Airport to handle cargo flights – read [here](#).

14th December – Airport Dimensions research finds more than 70% of passengers enjoyed their time at airports. See story [here](#).

15th December - Jersey Airport moves to hydrogen – see [here](#).

16th December – [CAA raises concerns with Wizz Air following complaints](#).

17th December – An article titled: ‘eVTOL Leaders Continue Progress’ can be read [here](#).

17th December – [BA and Virgin Atlantic will limit ticket sales for flights over Christmas](#). They say it is due to the border force announcing they would take strike action over this period.

18th December – An article titled: ‘Is This Offshore Advanced Air Mobility Concept The Small Airport Of The Future?’ is [here](#).

19th December - [Report questions using renewably generated electricity](#) to make e-fuels for aviation.

19th December - [UK funds Virgin Atlantic’s net zero transatlantic flight](#). The SAF used in the flight will be produced mainly from waste oils and fats, including used cooking oil.

19th December – [Strikes close three remote Scottish airports](#). These are on the Outer Hebridean islands of Barr and Benbecula plus Sumburgh Airport on Shetland.

20th December - A full recovery in passenger volumes at European airports has now been pushed back to 2025 rather than 2024 as previously forecast says ACI. See [here](#) and [here](#).

20th December – An article titled: ‘Could 2023 be the year for airport expansions to take off again?’ can be read [here](#).

21st December - [Virgin Orbit is planning a launch from Spaceport Cornwall at Cornwall Airport Newquay in the coming weeks](#). They’ve got licences from CAA.

22nd December - [Shannon Airport expects almost 75,000 passengers to pass through between now and New Year's Day](#). It’ll be the airport's busiest Christmas season in 3 years.

23rd December – See article titled: ‘[Creating the next-gen workforce](#)’ looking at how UK further/higher education providers can prepare the next generation of aviation workforce.

24th December – See article ‘[New Industry Standards: Arriving at the Airport Ready to Fly](#)’ about IATA’s newly released Recommended Practice on Digitalization of Admissibility.

25th December – ‘Minimum Connection Times At European Hubs: A Brief Guide’ – see [here](#).

26th December – Data says that UK festive flights are at 86% of pre-COVID levels – see [here](#).

27th December – An article about developments and ideas regarding airport queueing systems in these days post-COVID can be read [here](#).

28th December – An article titled: ‘What’s in store for the aviation industry in 2023?’ can be read [here](#). Meanwhile, another article titled: ‘2022 - The year aviation and tourism took off again’ is [here](#).

31st December – An article about green or environmentally based GSE (ground support equipment) at airports can be read [here](#).

SASIG Library Additions

There were no Library additions this month.