

## SASIG Aviation Bulletin: January 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

- **2 January** - [Airfare increases loom](#) as UK's regional airports start new year with tax hikes.
- **6 January** - [Anger as airport drop-off fees across the UK dramatically increase](#). Gatwick increases drop-off fee making it UK's most expensive airport for drop-off fees.
- **10 January** - [Amazon get the go-ahead to deliver by drone](#). The approval will see parcels dropped into customers' gardens in the area around Darlington, County Durham.
- **11 January** - [Heathrow boss calls for faster runway approval to meet 2029 start date](#). Airport has formally begun planning application for £33bn project.
- **13 January** – Scotland's SNP Government reveals that wealthy individuals using private jets to fly across Scotland will be hit with [a new environmental tax](#).
- **15 January** - [Heathrow Airport approves planning application for third runway](#) as 2026 decisions loom large.
- **20 January** - Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal. See [Gatwick's press release here](#). Meanwhile...
- **20 January** – [High Court was told the climate impact of a second runway at Gatwick Airport was not properly assessed](#) when the government approved plans.
- **29 January** - Scottish government launches consultation seeking views and evidence on the implementation Air Departure Tax. It will end 26 March. Details are [here](#).

### Potential Actions for LAs

- The experience of Darlington BC in dealing with a planning application from Amazon for drone operations is worth a read.

### SASIG Activities

- **13 January** - SASIG submitted a response to the DfT's consultation on proposed changes to Air Navigation Directions and Guidance.
- **23 January** - SASIG submitted a joint response on TDRs at Heathrow and Gatwick to the CAA.
- **20 January** - Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG) meeting (online).

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SASIG 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**

The year started off with a lot of concern that airports across the UK will be hit by steep rises in business rates arising from increased property tax this year. As a result, passengers are being told to brace for a rise in ticket prices. Add to this concern and some anger at the dramatic increase in airport drop-off fees across the UK. Many hubs have updated their prices for the new year - Gatwick has now become the most expensive in the UK and London City became the last airport to completely scrap free drop-offs. There's been quite a few Parliamentary questions about this issue this month, with some of the questions included in our Parliamentary Questions section. Do take a look.

Now one for our drone enthusiasts! Amazon got the go-ahead to deliver by drone (10 Jan). This approval will see parcels dropped into customers' gardens in the area around Darlington, County Durham. We will keep an eye out for further updates for members.

Heathrow still continues to dominate industry news as on 11 January its boss called for faster runway approval from Government to meet the 2029 start date and the airport formally began its planning application for the project.

Gatwick was also in the news again this month: on 20<sup>th</sup> communities around the airport and industry stakeholders were invited to have their say on Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal and the High Court was told by campaigners that the climate impact of a second runway at Gatwick was not properly assessed when the government approved plans.

To the north, details emerged that Newcastle Airport had secured a £364 million finance package refinancing existing facilities and supporting growth and sustainability targets. The package includes a £20 million green loan dedicated to projects aimed at achieving net zero carbon status by 2035.

And finally, even more north - north of the border in fact - on 13<sup>th</sup> Scotland's SNP Government revealed that wealthy individuals using private jets to fly across Scotland will be hit with a new environmental tax and later in the month on the 29<sup>th</sup> they then launched a consultation (running until 26 March) seeking views and evidence on the implementation Air Departure Tax.

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):**

Date of next meeting to be advised (Online-for CAG members only)

#### **SASIG Members' meeting:**

Wednesday: 25 February 2026 (online)

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

**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

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

### **Consultations Update: Recent and current:**

#### **Recent:**

#### **CAP1616: UK airspace Change Process consultation**

On 25 September, the CAA launched their UK Airspace change process consultation. This document (CAP1616) was a formal consultation setting out the CAA's proposals to modify the airspace change process. The consultation ran until 18 December 2025 and SASIG submitted a response.

#### **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.

The consultation sought 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 could be seen [here](#) and the full consultation document can also be seen [here](#).

The deadline for responses was 19 December 2025.

### **CAA consultation: Policy framework for new types of Vertical-Take Off and Landing aircraft (6 Nov 2025 – 29 Jan 2026)**

On 6 November 2025, the CAA launched [a consultation](#) seeking views from the public and VTOL industry stakeholders on their proposed legislative changes. The CAA is aiming to implement the regulatory framework and operational systems needed for commercial passenger flights by new types of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft by the end of 2028. As such, it is in the process of identifying the regulatory changes needed to accommodate the safe use of these new types of VTOL aircraft in the UK, whilst supporting sector growth, innovation, decarbonisation and international alignment.

This consultation closed on 29 Jan 2026.

### **UK Airspace Design and Coordination Services (CAP3158 and CAP3159) – 17 November 2025 – 12 January 2026.**

On 17 November 2025 the CAA published:

- [Consultation on draft guidance for the UK Airspace Design and Coordination Services](#) (CAP 3158); and
- [Consultation on the requirements for the UK Airspace Coordination Service and associated guidance](#) (CAP 3159).

These services are central to the Government's approach to modernising UK airspace and will be provided by NATS (En Route) plc (NERL).

The CAA have updated their background document [Modernising the way we do airspace design \(CAP 3156\)](#), which supports these consultations, and they wanted responses by 12 January 2026.

### **Proposed changes to the Air Navigation Directions and Air Navigation Guidance (25 November – 20 January 2026)**

On 25 November, the DfT published a [consultation](#) on proposed changes to the Air Navigation Directions and Air Navigation Guidance. These two documents provide the framework and environmental guidance for the CAA on how to carry out its air navigation functions in line with Government policy.

These documents require updating to reflect the latest Government policies, priorities and climate obligations, and their revision is critical to the delivery of Airspace Modernisation. The proposed changes are intended to help futureproof UK skies in a sustainable manner, whilst supporting economic growth, including airport expansion.

The consultation and supporting documents may be seen [here](#) and the consultation ran until 20 January 2026.

### **Ongoing:**

#### **Transforming Business Rates**

(25 November 2025 – 18 February 2026)

At Budget 2025, the Government published a Call for Evidence: Business Rates and Investment: Call for Evidence. This builds on the findings of the Transforming Business Rates: Discussion Paper and asks stakeholders for more detailed evidence on how the business rates system influences investment decisions – an important factor for airports to consider. The Government is interested in hearing from a wide range of stakeholders to support further policy development.

The Call for Evidence will be open until 18 February 2026.

### **Parliamentary and Government News**

#### **Transport Questions: House of Commons:**

The House rose on 18 December for the Christmas Recess and returned on 5 January 2026.

#### **13 January: Airport Drop Off Charges**

The House was asked whether it has considered the potential merits of regulating airport drop-off charges. The debate may be seen [here](#).

#### **Transport Questions: House of Lords**

The House rose on 18 December for the Christmas Recess and returned on 5 January 2026.

There were no Transport Questions in the House of Lords this month.

#### **Parliamentary Questions:**

The answers to these questions can be found in the online version of this Bulletin [here](#).

**Q.1. Question (102226) asked by Chris Coghlan (Dorking & Horley) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what comparative assessment her Department**

**has made of forecourt drop off and pick up charging practices at major international airports, including in the United States and Europe”.**

A. Keir Mather on 12 January 2026: “The provision of and charging for car parking at UK airports (including drop off and pick up charges) is solely a matter for the airport operator, as a commercial business, to manage and justify. However, the Government expects car parking at UK airports to be managed appropriately, and for consumers to be treated fairly”.

**Q.2. Question (102228) asked by Chris Coghlan (Dorking & Horley) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if his Department will make an assessment of the potential impact of the ability of UK airports to set forecourt drop off and pick up charges without an upper limit on anti-competitive pricing for passengers and local residents”.**

A. Kate Dearden on 12 January 2026: “The provision of and charging for car parking at UK airports (including drop off and pick up charges) is solely a matter for the airport operator, as a commercial business, to manage and justify. However, the Government expects car parking at UK airports to be managed appropriately, and for consumers to be treated fairly, which could include providing information on choices for parking, along with information on how to access them”.

**Q.3. Question (102225) asked by Chris Coghlan (Dorking & Horley) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of increases in business rates at major UK airports on passenger drop off charges”.**

A. Dan Tomlinson on 12 January 2026: “Properties seeing large bill increases as a result of the business rates revaluation - including airports - will benefit from a redesigned transitional relief scheme worth £3.2 billion over the next 3 years. At Budget 2025, the government also published a Call for Evidence on Business Rates and Investment. It will explore the concerns that airports and a small number of other ratepayers have raised around the ‘Receipts & Expenditure’ valuation methodology and its impacts on long-term, high value investments. The government is seeking to address issues raised ahead of the 2029 revaluation, aiming to conclude this work in sufficient time before pre-list discussion commences”.

**Q.4. Question (102224) asked by Chris Coghlan (Dorking & Horley) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department plans to introduce (a) guidance and (b) regulation to (i) cap and (ii) limit airport forecourt drop off and pick up charges”.**

A. Keir Mather on 12 January 2026: “The provision of and charging for car parking at airports (including drop off and pick up charges) is solely a matter for the airport operator, as a commercial business, to manage and justify. However, the Government expects car parking at airports to be managed appropriately, and for consumers to be treated fairly”.

**Q.5. Question (102166) asked by Adam Jogee (Newcastle Under Lyme) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential impact of a rail connection to Belfast International Airport on economic growth across the United Kingdom”.**

A. Matthew Patrick on 12 January 2026: “Belfast International Airport is vital not just for Northern Ireland’s connectivity but for economic growth across the whole of the UK.

While civil aviation is a reserved matter, the development of airports in Northern Ireland, and the surface transport serving them, is devolved. It is therefore for the Northern Ireland Executive to determine their infrastructure investment priorities, including any potential rail connection, within the record funding settlement for Northern Ireland announced by the Chancellor at the spending review”.

**Q.6. Question (103760) asked by Jim Shannon (Strangford) on 7 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions she has had with major airports on tackling noise pollution”.**

A. Keir Mather on 15 January 2026: “Ministers and officials engage regularly with airports on a range of issues including noise pollution. Major airports are required to produce noise action plans every five years. Current plans cover the period 2024-2028 and have been published on airports’ websites. The government also sets noise controls at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. At other airports, appropriate noise controls should be set locally through the planning system”.

**Q.7. Question (103356) asked by Mims Davies (East Grinstead & Uckfield) on 6 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment has she made of the potential impact of Gatwick Runway expansion on the local economy and the need for workers accommodation in a) the build stage and b) on the operation of the new runway”.**

A. Keir Mather on 15 January 2026: “On 21 September 2025 the Transport Secretary gave approval for Gatwick Airport’s application for a Development Consent Order to expand its operations through routine use of its existing northern runway. The Transport Secretary’s consideration of the application for the development including impacts arising from it are set out in her decision letter of 21 September 2025 which is available on the Planning Inspectorate’s website”.

**Q.8. Question (102882) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 5 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2025 to Question 96341, what consideration her Department has given to funding Public Service Obligation air routes between UK airports which do not involve the service starting or ending in London”.**

A. Keir Mather on 13 January 2026: “In December 2023, the Department for Transport published updated Public Service Obligation (PSO) guidance extending support to region-to-region PSOs which removes the historical requirement for eligible PSO routes to operate into London. Region-to-region PSOs can be used on existing routes if a route is at risk of being lost and the route meets the criteria for PSO support. These would need to be funded by the relevant local authorities”.

**Q.9. Question (101788) asked by Sarah Olney (Richmond Park) on 2 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when the results of the Aviation Nights Noise Effects study will be published”**

A. Keir Mather on 12 January 2026: “We expect to publish the results of the Aviation Night Noise Effects study later this year”.



**Q.10. Question (104135) asked by Gareth Thomas (Harrow West) on 8 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of a third runway on communities close to Heathrow”.**

A. Keir Mather on 14 January 2026: “The Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) sets out the mitigations a promoter must provide to minimise the impact of the project on the environment and affected communities. The review of the ANPS will consider if any changes are required to the existing mitigations. We will consult on any proposed amendments to the ANPS in summer 2026, and communities will have the chance to express their views”.

**Q.11. Question (105379) asked by Lee Anderson (Ashfield) on 13 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps her Department is taking to support regional airports.**

A. Keir Mather on 20 January 2026: “Regional airports connect all regions of the UK to national and international opportunities. They serve our local communities by supporting thousands of jobs while maintaining social and family ties and strengthening the bonds between the four nations.

The UK aviation market operates predominantly in the private sector. Airports invest in their infrastructure to attract passengers and airlines, while airlines are well placed to deliver services to their customers by responding to demand for different routes.

Ministers and officials at the Department meet regularly with regional airports to discuss issues such as regional air connectivity. Government supports connectivity through our joint funding of three Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes into London from Newquay, Dundee and Derry/Londonderry”.

**Q.12. Question (107025) asked by James Cleverley (Braintree) on 20 January 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how will the uplift in Rateable Values of airports in the 2026 Rating List, relative to the 2023 Rating List, affect the revenue of local billing authorities with airports in their localities”.**

A. Alison McGovern on 28 January 2026: “At revaluations, adjustments through the business rates retention system ensure that as far as possible local authorities do not see a change in the income they raise from business rates. In 2026-27, the business rates retention system is being reset as part of the design of the multi-year settlement which will also deliver the Fair Funding Review reforms. The reset includes a new measurement of all local authorities’ income which takes into account the impact of the 2026 revaluation, and reallocates business rates funding according to an updated measurement of local government funding need”.

## **National and Regional News**

**1<sup>st</sup> January** – [Drivers Representation and Advocacy Group concerned over new airport drop-off fee increases](#) arguing higher charges at London airports will add pressure to private hire drivers and inflate passenger fares.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** – [London City Airport is just days away from rolling out a drop off fee](#). The £8 fee (for 5 minutes) kicks in from 6 January 2026.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** – [Airfare increases loom](#) as UK’s regional airports start new year with tax hikes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** – [European Cargo and Cargo First have expanded operations at Bournemouth Airport](#) with new cargo facilities, including larger aircraft stands and a bonded warehouse.

**4<sup>th</sup> January** - [Business Travel Association will continue to challenge airport drop-off charging models](#) following news London City Airport will introduce £8 drop-off fee from this month.

**5<sup>th</sup> January** - [This article](#) tells you all about new routes for Stansted Airport in 2026.

**5<sup>th</sup> January** - [Worldwide Flight Services has won tender to lease a new, built-to-suit 11,000 sqm air cargo facility at Heathrow Airport](#). It's expected to be fully operational during 2027.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Loganair said its new Southampton Airport base has begun operations](#). This is a significant milestone in its continued investment in regional connectivity across the UK.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Anger as airport drop-off fees across the UK dramatically increase](#). Gatwick is increasing its drop-off fee from £7 to £10 for 10 minutes from today making it UK's most expensive airport for drop-off fees.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Manchester Airport](#): 7 new services confirmed from the likes of easyJet, Jet2 and Ryanair. 4 are brand-new for the airport and more are expected to follow over the year.

**7<sup>th</sup> January** - [Around 200 EasyJet workers at Luton Airport have accepted an improved pay offer](#), ending ongoing strike action.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [This article](#) says that 2026 is the year that will see improvements to the arrivals experience at East Midlands Airport, along with other major changes and improvements.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [Bristol Airport increases short stay and drop-off car park tariffs](#) to support sustainable travel. The new charges began this week.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [Birmingham City Council to auction land opposite Birmingham Airport](#). It's part of its ongoing programme to dispose of property assets.

**9<sup>th</sup> January** - [Seven new routes and a brand new airline will be operating from East Midlands Airport in 2026](#). SunExpress is to run routes to Antalya in Türkiye for first time from Easter.

**10<sup>th</sup> January** - UK airport drop-off charges: Where taxi drivers and motorists pay most and least – [see here](#).

**10<sup>th</sup> January** - [Amazon get the go-ahead to deliver by drone](#). The approval will see parcels dropped into customers' gardens in the area around Darlington, County Durham.

**11<sup>th</sup> January** - [Hundreds of passengers faced significant travel disruption](#) after Birmingham Airport was forced to suspend all incoming flights due to a major radar failure.

**11<sup>th</sup> January** - [Heathrow boss calls for faster runway approval to meet 2029 start date](#). UK's biggest airport has formally begun planning application for £33bn project.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** - [Heathrow Airport's annual passenger numbers exceeded 84 million for the first time last year](#). That was a 0.7% increase from 83.9 million in 2024. Meanwhile....

**12<sup>th</sup> January** - [London Stansted has also had its busiest ever year in 2025](#) as passenger numbers passed the 30m milestone for the first time in the airport's history.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** - [Legal challenge against Gatwick Airport's second runway](#) to begin next week.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** - [Heathrow moved 1.5m tonnes of cargo in 2025](#), up 0.8% year on year, as UK cargo surged 29.7%.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** - [Wizz Air introduces WIZZ Class, an optional service for flyers wanting extra personal space](#). It's available on selected flights to/from a number of European airports, including Luton and Gatwick.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** - Eastern Airways who went bust last year, apparently owe Cornwall Newquay Airport £1.5 million. Details are [here](#).

**14<sup>th</sup> January** - [Business breakfast event to be held at East Midlands airport on 21 January](#) to outline proposals to attract new airlines and airport's development plans for cargo growth.

**14<sup>th</sup> January** - Plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail have been set out today including [new route between Liverpool and Manchester, running via Manchester Airport](#) and Warrington.

**14<sup>th</sup> January** – [Council told flights from Cornwall to London are currently operating with 80% of their seats remaining empty](#) and have been since Skybus took service over in November.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - New Aviation Ambassadors announced by Government to inspire future pilots, engineers and air traffic controllers. See the Govt. press release [here](#).

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - [Heathrow Airport approves planning application for third runway](#) as 2026 decisions loom large.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - [Community groups in Essex and Hertfordshire reminded there's still time to apply for funding from Stansted Airport Community Fund](#) - deadline set for 13 February.

**16<sup>th</sup> January** - House of Commons debate 'unfair' airport drop-off charges pushing up taxi and private hire fares – details [here](#).

**16<sup>th</sup> January** – MAG who own Manchester, Stansted and East Midlands airports, reveals how Gen Z travellers are shaping airport retail and destination trends. Read about it [here](#).

**16<sup>th</sup> January** - [Kier named as a Tier 1 contractor on BA's newly established framework to deliver upgrades across the airline's property portfolio, primarily at Heathrow](#).

**18<sup>th</sup> January** - Revealed: [the UK's most expensive airports to drop a passenger off](#).

**19<sup>th</sup> January** - Belfast City Airport retains Platinum Level environmental status in the Community Northern Ireland's Environmental Benchmarking Survey – details [here](#).

**19<sup>th</sup> January** - [Passengers evacuated from Manchester Airport terminal this morning due to 'smell of gas'](#). Airport said the evacuation did not cause any major delays or disruption.

**19<sup>th</sup> January** - [Fire training centre based at Teesside Airport axed](#) as 'no longer viable'.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal. See [Gatwick's press release here](#). Meanwhile.....

**20<sup>th</sup> January** – [High Court was told the climate impact of a second runway at Gatwick Airport was not properly assessed](#) when the government approved plans.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - [London Luton Airport hopes to inspire the next generation of aviation stars](#) with the launch of a new competition for local students.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - Cornwall Council deny an allegation of 'gross mismanagement at Cornwall Airport Newquay – see [here](#).

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - Travel insurance comparison service, iSelect, conducted study of 50 major airports around world. They say [Manchester Airport is 3rd most stressful airport ahead of all other UK airports](#).

**21<sup>st</sup> January** - [Newcastle International Airport secures £364 million finance package](#). The airport served 5.55 million passengers in 2025 travelling directly to over 80 destinations.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** - [Reform UK Doncaster threaten to suspend support for efforts to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport](#). They say Mayor/City of Doncaster Council “withholding information” after clauses in the authority's lease with landowners were revealed in a leak.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** - [Heathrow scraps 100ml liquid container limit](#) after it finally completed the rollout of new high-tech CT scanners.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** – Doncaster Airport reveals 150mph flying taxi and 'huge' new train station ahead of reopening – details [here](#).

**24<sup>th</sup> January** - [Next-generation CT security scanners now operational across all Heathrow terminals](#).

**25<sup>th</sup> January** - [Uber drivers raise conditions concerns at Birmingham Airport holding area](#).

**25<sup>th</sup> January** - [Wizz Air to launch new route from Birmingham to Timisoara, Romania](#). The service is set to begin on 21 May 2026, operating twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays.

**26<sup>th</sup> January** – Heathrow tops list of 10 busiest airports in Europe – details [here](#).

**27<sup>th</sup> January** - [Gatwick Airport welcomes 7th new airline in 2026](#). The latest new airline to join its portfolio is Eurowings and they will fly to Cologne and Stuttgart.

**28<sup>th</sup> January** - [Bristol Airport advances hydrogen fuelling in collaboration with Ultima Forma](#) by working on a liquid hydrogen refuelling project to support zero-carbon emissions aircraft.

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – [This article](#) is about Heathrow still being the busiest airport in Europe and there are [14 new routes starting this year](#).

**30<sup>th</sup> January** - [The end of East Midlands Airport's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year](#) saw it record the third highest year-on-year increase in cargo in its history, new figures reveal.

**30<sup>th</sup> January** - [UK green aviation funding boosts SAF momentum](#) but hurdles remain.

## **Other Aviation Industry News**

**1<sup>st</sup> January** – [Berlin once had four airports](#): this is why only one survives today.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** – This article states that [airport tire wear emerges as a major source of hidden air pollutants](#).

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** - [The Airbus A380 Isn't Dead](#): The Superjumbo's most-served routes just surged 50% according to this item.

**3<sup>rd</sup> January** - Snow disrupts travel across the Netherlands with [over 500 flights affected at Schiphol Airport](#).

**5<sup>th</sup> January** - [Top airport technology trends set to shape future of airport operations in 2026](#): they will transform airport operations to be more efficient, sustainable and resilient.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Cork Airport records busiest year in its history during 2025](#). 3.46m passengers flew to/from airport driven by a large increase in travellers from UK provincial cities. And...

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Last year was also the busiest year on record at Ireland West Airport](#), with passenger numbers reaching 946,381 for the first time in its history.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** - [Ryanair will be axing a number of flights across popular destinations this year](#) including France, Portugal, Spain and Germany.

**6<sup>th</sup> January** – [See details](#) on final events for Glasgow Airport's Airspace Change Proposal.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [US airlines have filed formal complaint against Dublin Airport's passenger cap with US Depart. of Transport](#), claiming it breaches Ireland's legal obligations. Meanwhile...

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [Legislation is being drafted by the Government to remove the passenger cap](#) at Dublin Airport, the Taoiseach has said.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [Aer Lingus Regional has announced a significant expansion of its Belfast City-Southampton schedule for Summer 2026](#). The expansion will add more than 17,000 seats.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - [Edinburgh Airport to extend its service to Philadelphia following a successful summer pilot](#). The direct route will now run between 29 March and early January 2027.

**8<sup>th</sup> January** - Aer Lingus may soon cease operations in Manchester. Airline has [paused ticket sales for all transatlantic flights originating/terminating in Manchester](#) from March 31, 2026.

**9<sup>th</sup> January** - [Cork Airport loses Rome and Polish routes as Ryanair shifts capacity](#). Ryanair said the decision was due to "lower-cost options elsewhere across the network."

**10<sup>th</sup> January** - [Travel and Tour World \(TTW\) has released its 2026 ranking of the world's 50 best airports](#): Heathrow makes 22<sup>nd</sup> place and Manchester is in 45<sup>th</sup> place.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** – [Airports/EU clash over new border control rules](#). New Entry-Exit System asks over third of non-EU nationals entering Schengen area to provide extra data at the border.

**12<sup>th</sup> January** - [The airport of 2026 and beyond](#): how outcomes from ICAO's 42nd Assembly will empower airports to deliver smarter, greener and more seamless travel in the future.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** - [States of Guernsey seeking to expedite the delivery of the rehabilitation of Alderney's main runway](#), so that construction can commence as early as possible in 2027.

**13<sup>th</sup> January** – Scotland's SNP Government reveals that wealthy individuals using private jets to fly across Scotland will be hit with [a new environmental tax](#).

**14<sup>th</sup> January** - [Air Charter Scotland operated the first of six weekly return flights between Wick and Aberdeen](#), restoring connectivity to the north of Scotland.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - Europe's top court will indicate next month if it is likely to quash the 32 million passenger limit at Dublin Airport – details are [here](#).

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - [Shannon Airport flags risk to State's reputation from protests](#). Chairman tells Minister 'continued instances of trespass and criminal damage' pose grave risk.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** – [This article](#) lists '7 Ways Air Travel Will Change This Year'.

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - Eastern Airways rescue hopes as preferred bidder for sister company is picked – see story [here](#).

**16<sup>th</sup> January** – [A record 36.4 million passengers travelled through Dublin Airport last year](#). This is a 5.1% increase in number of people who passed through the two terminals in 2024.

**16<sup>th</sup> January** - [Robert Paterson](#) who started his career almost 30 years ago as a baggage handler at Aberdeen International Airport, has been appointed Operations Director.

**17<sup>th</sup> January** – 'The [Airlines with the World's Best On-Time Performance In 2025](#)'.

**17<sup>th</sup> January** – For aircraft enthusiasts: '[Here's How Much Bigger the Boeing 747-400 Is Compared to the Airbus A350](#)'.

**18<sup>th</sup> January** - Knock Airport still 'flying high' after 40 years – see story [here](#).

**18<sup>th</sup> January** - [Irish-linked EU executive has failed in a legal challenge against Ryanair](#) after

**19<sup>th</sup> January** - [Glasgow Airport will host its annual Jobs Fair on 28 January](#) offering jobseekers the chance to explore more than 500 roles across the airport campus.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - [Irish Transport Minister launches Market Sounding Survey to support plans for new PSO air service between Dublin/City of Derry Airport](#), expected to begin this year.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** - [Shannon Airport achieves Level 3 Airport Carbon Accreditation](#).

**21<sup>st</sup> January** - [Edinburgh Airport welcomed close to 17 million passengers in 2025](#) – a new record for a Scottish airport.

**21<sup>st</sup> January** - [NHS drone delivery in London entering its next phase](#), with urgent pathology samples set to be transported by zero-emission drones across South West London.

**21<sup>st</sup> January** - [Row over Dublin Airport Covid funding](#) almost ended up in court.

**24<sup>th</sup> January** - [British firm promises air taxis as affordable as Uber Black by 2028](#).

**25<sup>th</sup> January** - Air France Plans to Serve 7 UK Airports: But There's a Catch – details [here](#).

**26<sup>th</sup> January** – This article is titled: '[What is agentic AI and how will it impact airports?](#)'

**27<sup>th</sup> January** - [Brussels Airport uses the Balanced Approach procedure](#) as a way to establish framework that supports sustainable growth while reducing noise/environmental impacts.

**28<sup>th</sup> January** - The newly released World Airport Traffic Forecasts 2025–2054 shows sustained long-term demand for air travel. More details on this can be seen [here](#).

**28<sup>th</sup> January** - [Aer Lingus to close Manchester base by March 31](#). It's been reported profit margins have been low compared to other areas of Aer Lingus business.

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – Scottish government launches consultation seeking views and evidence on the implementation Air Departure Tax. It will end 26 March. Details are [here](#).

**29<sup>th</sup> January** - [Dublin Airport looked at suspending business jet travel because of passenger cap](#). daa, which operates the airport, was warned any move to cut business aviation access would send an "extremely damaging signal" to international business.

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – This article looks at '[How to design the sustainable airport of the future](#)'.

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – [Ground handler Swissport conducted first complete aircraft turnaround in Swiss aviation](#) using only electric ground support equipment covering passenger disembarking and boarding, baggage and cargo handling, and aircraft servicing.

**30<sup>th</sup> January** - ACI Europe warns airport finances under pressure despite €360bn investment needs – details are [here](#).

### **SASIG Library Additions**

There were no Library additions this month.