

SASIG Aviation Bulletin: April 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

- **1 April** – [Skybus announce it will end daily service between Gatwick and Newquay nearly two months earlier than planned](#) citing soaring fuel costs and reduced passenger numbers..
- **2 April** – [‘Better Connected: a strategy for integrated transport’ is published](#). It outlines the Government's long-term transport strategy, with a number of references to airport surface connectivity.
- **13 April** – [Airports/airlines ask EC and EU Member States to urgently introduce additional operational flexibility into Schengen Entry Exit System](#) following widespread disruption on the first day of full implementation (10 April).
- **20 April** – [CAA publishes draft decision on Heathrow expansion early costs](#).
- **21 April** - [Airlines call for emergency government support as war hits airfares and flights](#).
- **24 April** - [Government issues response to fears of jet fuel shortage due to Iran war](#).
- **29 April** - [London Gatwick's 14-week Route 4 consultation closes](#). The proposals form part of a UK government programme to modernise UK airspace.

Potential Actions for LAs

- See the current consultations on onshore windfarms and the ETS scheme to see if they are relevant and merit a local response.

SASIG Activities

- Discussions held with CAA Drone Unit – further engagement is planned.

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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

April started with the announcement that Skybus's daily service between Gatwick and Newquay, was ending nearly two months earlier than planned. Skybus had only been running the service since late last year under a Passenger Service Obligation contract jointly funded by the government and the council after the previous operators, Eastern Airways entered administration. The reasons for the abrupt cessation given were the rising cost of fuel as a result of the Middle East conflict and also a drop in passenger numbers associated with uncertainty over the future of the route.

There has also been a lot of media coverage about the EU's new Entry/Exit System which began to be fully implemented on 10 April. Airports and airlines quickly asked EC and EU Member States to urgently introduce additional operational flexibility following widespread disruption such as long queues, caused as a result of the new system. Airlines have also called for emergency government support as the Iran war situation hits airfares and flights and threatens a shortage of jet fuel.

On 2 April, DfT published '[Better Connected: a strategy for integrated transport](#)'. It outlines the government's 'long-term strategy for safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transport for people in England' and there are a number of aviation references, most relating to ground transport connectivity to airports.

On 20 April, the CAA published its draft decision ([CAP3238](#)) on Heathrow expansion early costs. The draft decision, which is now subject to statutory consultation, confirms the regulator's intention to allow Heathrow Airport Ltd to recover efficient early costs incurred during 2025 and 2026, up to a cap of £320 million (2024 prices). This was followed at the end of the month by the closure of Gatwick's 14-week Route 4 consultation. The proposals form part of the UK government programme to modernise UK airspace.

Finally, we would like to foreshadow a change to the format of the monthly Bulletin from next month with a view to making it easier to navigate and get access to the key stories, whilst maintaining its important role as a record of aviation related questions, statements and debates in Parliament. We hope that you will enjoy the new Bulletin (first edition will cover May) and, of course, please do let us know what you think!

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:

Wednesday: 17 June 2026 – including AGM 10am (Online)

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

17-20 May 2026: [Routes Europe](#), Rimini, Italy

6-7 June 2026: [Manston International Air Show](#), Manston Airport, Ramsgate

20-21 June 2026: Cornwall's [Reach for the Sky Festival](#), Cornwall Newquay Airport

20-24 July 2026: [Farnborough Air Show](#), Farnborough

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

(To note: 2-4 June 2026: [EBACE](#), Geneva, Switzerland: This has now been cancelled).

Consultations Update: Recent and current:

[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

2 April: [‘Better Connected: a strategy for integrated transport’ published](#) outlining the Government's long-term transport strategy.

14 April: Better Connected: Integrated Transport Strategy

The Transport Secretary issued a statement in the House of Commons about the publication on 2 April of ‘Better Connected: Integrated Transport Strategy’ – see details [here](#).

15 April: Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2026

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill moved that the Grand Committee (Lords) do consider the Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2026 – see details [here](#).

20 April: Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2026

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill moved that the draft Regulations laid before the House (Lords) on 24 February be approved – see details [here](#).

24 April: [Government issues response to fears of jet fuel shortage due to Iran war.](#)

Transport Questions: House of Commons:

The House went into the Easter Recess on 27 March and returned 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 returned on 12 April. There were no Transport Questions in the House this month.

Parliamentary Questions:

Q.1. Question (125837) asked by Olly Glover (Didcot & Wantage) on 10 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of contrail-mitigation measures in reducing aviation's climate impact”.

A. Keir Mather on 20 April 2026: “The Government recognises that aviation has non-CO2 impacts such as contrails which may have significant warming impacts on the climate, although significant scientific uncertainties remain. The Government has funded 14 projects as part of our Non-CO2 R&D Programme to better our understanding of aviation’s non-CO2 impacts and to identify and develop potential mitigation options. The Department also established a Contrail Impact Mitigation Task and Finish Group under the Jet Zero Taskforce which assessed the UK’s capability to undertake contrail avoidance manoeuvres as a means of reducing aviation’s non-CO₂ climate impacts.

The report highlighted that the atmospheric conditions in the North Atlantic make it prone to forming persistent warming contrails. The report was published on 17 March 2026 and one of the key recommendations from this report was for the UK to undertake large-scale trials in the North Atlantic. The Department is carefully considering all the recommendations and is currently exploring options to fund a large-scale trial in UK controlled airspace”.

Q.2. Question (125398) asked by Alex Sobel (Leeds Central & Headingley) on 10 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what progress the Government has made in 2026 to date on incorporating permanent greenhouse-gas removals into the Sustainable Aviation Fuel mandate”.

A. Keir Mather on 17 April 2026: “The Government has welcomed the Independent Greenhouse Gas Removal (GGR) Review, in which the incorporation of permanent GGRs in the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Mandate was recommended. Government is considering the recommendations and will respond in due course”.

Q.3. Question (125495) asked by Lee Anderson (Ashfield) on 10 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps her Department is taking to promote the use of regional airports”.

A. Keir Mather on 20 April 2026: “Regional airports are vital in addressing transport inequity by connecting 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. Government supports connectivity across the union through our joint funding of two Public Service Obligation (PSO) routes into London from Dundee and Derry/Londonderry.

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”.

Q.4. Question (127086) asked by Sir Mel Stride (Central Devon) on 14 April 2026: “To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what percentage of total Air Passenger Duty receipts was attributable to (a) domestic and short-haul flights and (b) long-haul flights in the most recent financial year for which data is available.

A. Dan Tomlinson on 20 April 2026: “Air Passenger Duty (APD) applies to airlines, rather than individual passengers, and is the principal tax on the aviation sector. APD is charged on passengers travelling on aircraft departing from airports in the UK, with the rate of duty determined by the distance to a passenger’s final destination and the class of travel. From April 2023, APD operates across four destination bands:

- Domestic, covering flights within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Band A, where the distance from London to the country’s capital is up to 2,000 miles
- Band B, where the distance is between 2,001 miles and 5,500 miles, and
- Band C, where the distance is over 5,500 miles.

Airline operators declare the number of chargeable passengers by destination band and by rate. However, APD receipts are not attributable to distance travelled, and therefore this is not information that HMRC collects”.

Q.5. Question (126687) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 13 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the economic and environmental review of Heathrow expansion has been completed”.

A. Keir Mather on 21 April 2026: “The economic and environmental review of Heathrow expansion is ongoing. We intend to consult on a revised Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which will include the proposed outcomes of the review, in summer this year. The review will not be complete until the final ANPS (post-consultation) is laid in Parliament, which we intend to do by the end of the year”.

Q.6. Question (126686) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 13 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an estimate of the potential planning costs for the delivery of a third runway at Heathrow”.

A. Keir Mather on 21 April 2026: “The Government recognises the importance of making sure that any scheme for Heathrow expansion is both deliverable and affordable. It is for potential promoters to develop plans for expansion as part of their Development Consent Order application. As the independent economic regulator for expansion, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will determine the recovery of costs incurred by potential promoters of expansion”.

Q.7. Question (126685) asked by Munira Wilson (Twickenham) on 13 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of Heathrow Airport's debt on her policies on a third runway at Heathrow”.

A. Keir Mather on 21 April 2026: “As a private company, Heathrow Airport's financing decisions are a matter for the airport. Since this is a private sector project, it is up to the potential promoters to develop and finance expansion proposals, and to demonstrate that any scheme is financially viable”.

Q.8. Question (HL16273) asked by Baroness Pidgeon on 13 April 2026: “To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the minutes of the meetings of the

Airspace and Noise Engagement Group which have taken place since May 2022; and if so, when”.

A. Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill on 27 April 2026: “The Government does not intend to publish the minutes of the meetings of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) that have taken place since May 2022. ANEG is chaired by DfT at official level and Ministers are not in attendance”.

Q.9. Question (127558) asked by Nick Timothy (West Suffolk) on 15 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what fiscal steps her Department is taking to encourage careers in aviation”.

A. Keir Mather on 27 April 2026: “The Department for Transport encourages careers in the aviation industry through its Generation Aviation programme. The Reach for the Sky Challenge Fund, a part of the Generation Aviation programme, administered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), funds outreach activity with the aim of showcasing career paths, boosting skills and futureproofing the aviation sector.

The Department also funds the CAA’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme. The STEM programme is aimed at growing interest in aviation careers through identifying and addressing barriers and growing and diversifying the talent pool. Since the inception of both programmes, the Department has committed close to £6 million in funding, reaching over one million young people”.

Q.10. Question (127548) asked by Richard Holden (Basildon & Billericay) on 15 April 2026: “To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2026 to Question 123240, what contribution improved cycling facilities will make to balancing aviation sector growth”.

A. Keir Mather on 20 April 2026: “Airports and their local stakeholders consider all transport options as part their surface access strategies, which cover staff as well as customers”.

National and Regional News

1st April – The CAA has rejected efforts from Heathrow to significantly raise its landing fees to fund a series of upgrades to the airport – details [here](#).

1st April - [GWR trialling new overnight services to Gatwick from 6 June for 12-weeks](#), testing demand for early-morning/late-night connectivity between the airport and Thames Valley.

1st April - German carrier Condor has launched its first UK service, operating three times per day between London Gatwick and Frankfurt – details [here](#).

1st April - [London Stansted has joined the Essex Wildlife Trust’s Investor in Wildlife scheme](#), helping to strengthen and expand the environmental work already taking place on site.

1 April - [Skybus announce it will end daily service between Gatwick and Newquay nearly two months earlier than planned](#) citing soaring fuel costs and reduced passenger numbers.

2nd April - [Cornwall Airport Newquay unveils 3 new state-of-the-art aviation fire appliances](#) that include the 100th Rosenbauer Panther to be delivered in the UK and ROI.

2nd April - [Better Connected: a strategy for integrated transport’ is published](#). It outlines the Government’s long-term transport strategy.

3rd April - [British Airways launches 12 new routes from London](#). It is now the largest carrier operating to and from London with 28% of all flights from the capital.

3rd April - [AirportsUK says it welcomes publication of the integrated transport strategy](#) but highlights there's a lack of guidance/action to how connectivity to airports will be achieved.

5th April - [Concerns have been raised about the viability of Cornwall's Newquay Airport](#) after the sudden cancellation of its daily service to London.

6th April - [This article](#) is about London night operations this summer.

7th April - CAA survey from 2025 shows East Midlands airport's customers are a 50/50 split of males and females – with the largest group size of two, at 55%. Details are [here](#).

7th April - [265 metres tall tower to be built in Canary Wharf after agreement reached with London City Airport over height concerns](#). It'll be one of tallest office buildings in Europe.

8th April - Cornwall's Reach for the Sky Festival to take place again on 20-21 June at Cornwall Newquay Airport – details [here](#).

8th April - [Read details](#) about London Luton Airport's completion of a significant £18million investment in resurfacing its runway.

9th April - [Tunnel to Heathrow could be privately funded under revived rail link plans](#).

10th April - [This article](#) talks about Leeds Bradford Airport refurbishment which will see it almost double in size, and its current progress whilst remaining open to passengers.

10th April - [Loganair to launch twice-weekly direct service between Jersey and Bordeaux](#) from 19 June to 5 October 2026, with flights operating on Mondays and Fridays.

13th April - Heathrow forecasts uncertain outlook due to Middle East conflict – see [here](#).

13th April - AGS Airports appoints design partners for first stage of £350m major transformation programme across Glasgow and Southampton airports – details [here](#).

13th April - [East Midlands Airport Meet & Greet customers](#) may skip queues by dropping off and collecting their car keys from new automated machines.

14th April - German airline Eurowings now offering London Gatwick passengers 19 flights a week to Cologne and Stuttgart – details [here](#).

15th April - [London Stansted airport records busiest ever winter season](#). Over 10.57m passengers passed through the terminal between November and March. Meanwhile....

15th April - London Stansted airport hosting jobs fair this week – 22nd April. Details [here](#).

15th April - [Doncaster Sheffield Airport has issued a call for a fixed-base operator](#) as the former commercial airport progresses towards reopening for general aviation.

15th April - Plans for 4.8m sq ft of manufacturing space at the soon-to-close Coventry Airport have been approved by Warwick Council – details [here](#).

16th April - [Photo gallery](#): New photos show Doncaster Sheffield Airport as it looks today. The airport is gearing up to reopen after its closure in 2022.

17th April - [Industrial action by Stansted PRM staff this week over pay has now been called off](#) while workers vote on an improved pay offer.

18th April - [Heathrow hotel drop-off dispute resolved](#) as licensed taxis secure fee exemption.

19th April - [Newcastle International Airport has cut its on-site carbon emissions by 46% compared to 2019](#), putting it ahead of its target to reach net zero by 2035.

19th April - [Farnborough Airport achieves Europe's Number One FBO title for 19th time](#).

20th April - [CAA publishes draft decision on Heathrow expansion early costs](#).

22nd April - [Doncaster Sheffield Airport](#): New website launched for planned re-opening.

22nd April - [Joint enforcement operation targeting illegal taxi touting at Heathrow Airport](#) has led to more than 25 vehicles being stopped and multiple drivers facing further action.

22nd April - Design partners appointed for Glasgow and Southampton airports transformation programme – details are [here](#).

23rd April - [Doncaster Sheffield Airport has made a trio of senior appointments](#) to join the leadership team working on the re-opening of the airport.

24th April - [2026 sees 2,026 local projects benefit from East Midlands Airport Community Fund](#). It was set up in 2002 and has since handed out more than £2.8m to local projects.

24th April - [London Stansted this week welcomed members of The Industry and Parliament Trust \(IPT\)](#) for a tour of the airport and visit to the airport's college to meet with students.

24th April - [Government issues response to fears of jet fuel shortage due to Iran war](#).

26th April - [Plans to expand Bristol Airport are back on the table](#) - promising jobs and new destinations - but raising fresh concerns about noise, traffic and climate impact.

26th April - easyJet launches 9 new winter routes from 6 UK airports – details [here](#).

27th April - [Transport researchers are using data from DHL to simulate a delivery truck's journey from London to East Midlands Airport](#) in what they describe as a UK first.

28th April - [New carbon accreditation milestone for Leeds Bradford Airport](#). It has officially achieved Level 4 status in ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.

28th April - [More than 180 ground handling workers at Luton Airport have secured a 7.5% pay rise](#) after threatening strike action.

28th April - [Regional & City Airports reported a 23% year-on-year increase in passenger traffic across its UK portfolio during 12 months ending March 31](#). The group owns and operates Bournemouth Airport, Exeter Airport and Norwich Airport.

29th April - [Bournemouth Airport reports best ever year](#) with 26% rise in passengers.

29th April – [Heathrow warns passenger numbers for rest of the year will be affected by the Iran conflict](#). Some 18.9 million people passed through during first the 3 months of year.

29th April - [London Gatwick's 14-week Route 4 consultation closes](#). The proposals form part of a UK government programme to modernise UK airspace.

30th April - Leeds Bradford Airport has submitted another planning application to increase nighttime flying and campaigners are opposing this – see [here](#).

30th April - [Record breaking year for cargo growth at East Midlands Airport](#). It carried 413,664 tonnes during the 2025/6 financial year (April 2025 to March this year).

Other Aviation Industry News

1st April – Read interesting article titled: '[Implementing zero trust at airports: digital safety in the age of AI](#)' about what can be done to face up to cyber criminals attacking airports.

1st April - [Glasgow Airport preparing for a busy Easter travel period](#), with nearly 250,000 passengers expected to pass through the terminal between 30 March and 19 April.

2nd April – [Ireland Transport Ministers visited Cork Airport](#) yesterday to see how the gateway's €200 million capital development plan is taking shape.

3rd April – This interesting article is titled: '[The next evolution of airports](#)'.

4th April – Irish Minister for Transport must swiftly fill eight senior posts at airport operator DAA – details are [here](#). Meanwhile.....

5th April – [Documents show that US airlines warned Minister for Transport last year](#) that the Dublin Airport cap risked breaching international air travel treaties.

7th April - [Shannon Airport becomes first airport in Ireland to deploy a First-Mover R-3500](#), an electric vehicle-moving system designed to relocate electric and conventional vehicles.

8th April - Willie Walsh, DG of IATA says jet fuel costs are likely to remain high, affecting airports across the world, even when the Straits of Hormuz reopen. Details are [here](#).

8th April - [Passenger numbers at Dublin Airport rose by 11% to reach 2.9 million in March](#), despite the cancellation of 284 flights due to events in the Middle East.

8th April - [EU's new Entry/Exit System](#): full launch on April 10. [New border rules could mean longer airport queues.](#)

9th April - [IATA backs biometric 'contactless travel'](#): recent study showed contactless, biometric-enabled international travel is already achievable with digital identity replacing paper documentation.

10th April - [EU airline industry warns of fuel shortages if Strait of Hormuz stays closed.](#)

10th April - Read item titled: ['How can airports build trust in biometrics while accelerating passenger flow?'](#)

10th April - [Cardiff Airport wins £205m subsidy battle in a 'boost for jobs and flights'](#). The Welsh Government has successfully defended a legal challenge from Bristol Airport.

10th April - UK drone solutions provider Coptrz is teaming up with Amsterdam-based drone maker Avy for emergency services and defence sectors. Details are [here](#).

12th April - [About 100 people were left stranded in Milan](#) after a flight to Manchester left without them because of problems with new EU border control checks.

13th April - [Airports/airlines ask EC and EU Member States to urgently introduce additional operational flexibility into Schengen Entry Exit System](#) following widespread disruption on the first day of full implementation on Friday last week (10 April).

13th April - [Cork Airport to build country's biggest solar-powered carport](#) providing shelter for parked cars while generating up to 20% of Cork airport's electricity needs into the future.

14th April - ACI World reveals 2025 rankings of world's busiest airports, highlighting the total passengers, international passengers, air cargo, and aircraft movements. More details [here](#).

15th April - UK airline pension crisis could trigger nationwide bailout talks. Read blog [here](#).

16th April - [This article](#) is about border control remaining an obstacle to seamless travel.

16th April - [Central Statistics Office show 2025 was a record year in terms of the number of passengers using Irish airports](#) since the CSO began monitoring the figures in 2013.

17th April - [The world's first commercial air taxi vertiport](#) has been established at Dubai Airport and is now ready to [operate electric vertical take-off and landing \(eVTOL\) aircraft](#).

18th April - This article is titled: ['How airports are becoming cities'](#).

19th April - [British Airways' inaugural flight from Heathrow lands in St. Louis](#). For the first time in over 20 years, Missouri will have regular flights to the United Kingdom.

20th April - [Extraordinary general meeting of the current Waterford Airport \(Ireland\) company](#) expected to finalise the takeover of the airport by US oil billionaire Kelcy Warren.

20th April - [Aer Lingus has cut more than 500 flights from its upcoming schedule, according to reports](#). The main reason given is it is due to 'maintenance'.

21st April - [Airlines call for emergency government support as war hits airfares and flights](#).

22nd April - [Europe's airports welcome the EC's plan to address the energy crisis](#).

22nd April - Jet2 has added flights and city breaks to Paris to its programme from East Midlands Airport for Summer 2027 – see details [here](#).

23rd April - [Shannon Airport Group has reported pre-tax profits of €30.5m](#) after the company carried more than 2.3m passengers in 2025, its best travel numbers in 16 years.

24th April - [Ryanair plans to cut close to one in 10 planned summer 2026 flights from Dublin Airport](#), blaming Government failure to axe the 32 million a year limit on passengers there.

24th April - [Edinburgh Airport is a key economic driver for Scotland](#) says new report.

24th April - [A 1.7MW solar carport to be built at Cork Airport](#) and is expected to meet one-fifth of the airport's electricity demand.

24th April - [Aer Lingus is preparing for its biggest-ever summer across the Atlantic](#), with the Irish flag carrier set to operate a record 20 US routes in summer 2026.

26th April - [Scottish Greens want to stop all private jets using publicly owned Scottish airports](#) such as Prestwick and Inverness and Wick run by Highlands and Islands Airports.

27th April - [Ray O’Driscoll named as the new CEO of The Shannon Airport Group](#) after serving as interim boss since the departure of Mary Considine last September.

28th April - [Aurrigo appoints Mark Gower as Director of Global Airport Operations](#) to support its transition from proof-of-concept trials to scaled commercial deployments of its autonomous vehicle solutions at airports.

28th April – As energy crisis deepens strains on regional airports, ACI EUROPE calls for urgent policy responses – see [here](#) for details.

28th April - [Gary Owens named as chairperson of daa, which operates Dublin and Cork airports](#). He will take up his 5-year term in June.

29th April - [What will US Department of Transportation's deadline due on 6 May](#) for a decision on taking action about Dublin Airport's passenger cap mean for Dublin Airport?

30th April – [Irish Transport Minister announces almost €8m in funding for regional airports](#) as part of the Government’s new Regional Airports Programme 2026–2030.

30th April - [Edinburgh Airport contributed £2.7 billion to Scotland’s economy in 2025](#) and supported almost 44,000 jobs, according to a new independent economic impact report.

30th April - [Irish Coast Guard opens new base at Waterford Airport on Ireland’s SE coast](#) after transition of emergency response air services from CHC Helicopter to Bristow Ireland.

SASIG Website Library Additions

This month, CAP 3240: consultation reply document to CAA consultation (7 November 2025 – 29 January 2026) on policies needed to accommodate the safe use of new types of VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) aircraft, was published and can be seen in the SASIG library.

Also put in the Library this month: CAP3237: UK Main National Aviation Safety Plan 2026-2029. This is directly linked to the Global Aviation Safety Plan and Regional Aviation Safety Plan published by ICAO and complements the UK State Safety Programme.