



Department  
for Transport

Laurie Price  
Chair, GA Challenge Panel  
c/o Challenge Panel Secretariat  
Aviation Directorate  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
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From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
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*Dear Laurie,*

I am writing on behalf of myself and fellow Ministers Grant Shapps and Mark Harper, to give our thanks to you and the other members of the GA Challenge Panel for producing and submitting to us such a comprehensive and well laid out interim report – particularly given the short period of time in which the Panel has been in existence.

It is clear from reading the interim report that the Panel has worked closely with the CAA to critique its programme for the reform of regulation of the GA sector and that a great deal of thought has been given to developing ideas for improving the way that the sector is regulated. Ministers would like to see the Panel continuing its engagement with the CAA until the completion of the final report. We are also encouraged that discussions have taken place or are scheduled with other Government Departments, including Treasury, BIS and CLG around key policy issues on which they lead and which could impact on the GA sector.

The interim report makes a number of initial recommendations and I expect a lot of them will be retained in the final report. However, I also expect that you may change or add recommendations in April. We have not therefore commented at this stage on specific measures. However, we do support the recommendation to carry out research into the economic value of GA, particularly as this would help to inform any measures the Government might want to support in the future to help GA to grow and strengthen the sector's contribution to the UK economy. This proposal will need to be considered fully, but we would hope that funding for this can be agreed so that the project can get started as soon as possible.

As well as further engagement with Government Departments, I know you will continue to discuss your work with other GA industry stakeholders. In this regard, we are supportive of the proposed GA industry event in late February/early March which is currently being explored with the Airport Operators Association. This would provide the Panel with the opportunity to update industry on its work to date and gain support for some of the key recommendations.

We are very encouraged by the Panel's work so far and I must say that you have raised expectations for the final report. However, I do not doubt that you will meet these expectations and continue to examine this important area with due levels of enthusiasm. We look forward to receiving your final report in April.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Goodwill', with a small dot at the end.

**ROBERT GOODWILL**