



## Department for Transport

### **Jet Zero Taskforce – 2024 Annual Plenary**

**4:00pm – 5:30pm, Wednesday 4 December 2024**

**Department for Transport, Great Minister House, 33 Horseferry Road,  
Westminster, SW1P 4DR**

#### **Attendees**

##### Chair

- The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Transport

##### Ministers

- The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade
- Mike Kane MP, Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Security, Department for Transport
- Sarah Jones MP, Minister for Industry, Department for Business and Trade and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

##### Expert Group Industry Chair

- Holly Boyd-Boland, VP Corporate Development and Sustainability, Virgin Atlantic

##### Members – in person

- Julie Kitcher, Chief Sustainability Officer and Communications, Airbus
- Gary Elliot, Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace Technology Institute
- Paul Hutton, Chief Executive Officer, Cranfield Aerospace Solutions
- Karen Dee, Chief Executive, Airports UK
- Kenton Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer, easyJet
- Shai Weiss, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Atlantic
- Sean Doyle, Chief Executive Officer, British Airways
- Steve Heapy, Chief Executive Officer, Jet2
- Tim Alderslade, Chief Executive, Airlines UK
- Tom Mackle, UK Airline Chief Executive Officer, DHL
- Paul Greenwood, Chairman Esso UK Ltd, ExxonMobil
- Andrew Mennear, Director, UK Government Affairs, bp (deputising for Louise Kingham OBE, UK Head of Country and Senior Vice President for Europe)
- Elizabeth de Jong, Chief Executive Officer, Fuels Industry UK
- Steve Kelly, President, International for 1PointFive
- Emma Pinchbeck, Chief Executive Officer, Climate Change Committee
- Rob Bishton, Chief Executive Officer, Civil Aviation Authority
- Tim Johnson, Director, Aviation Environment Federation
- Elvira Rozajac, Managing Director, Infrastructure and Energy Project Finance, HSBC
- Alan Newby, Director of Research and Technology, Rolls-Royce (deputising for Simon Burr MBE, Group Director, Engineering and Technology)
- Maria Laine, President of Boeing UK, Ireland and Nordic region, Boeing



## Department for Transport

- Thomas Woldbye, Chief Executive Officer, Heathrow Airport
- Ken O'Toole, Group Chief Executive, Manchester Airports Group
- Grant Pearson, Chairman, Renewable Transport Fuel Association
- Duncan McCourt, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Aviation
- Professor Rob Miller, Director Whittle Laboratory, University of Cambridge
- Russ Dunn, Chief Technology Officer and Head of Strategy, GKN Aerospace
- Kevin Craven, Chief Executive Officer, ADS Group
- Rebecca Borresen, Director of Safety and Sustainability, Loganair (deputising for Luke Farajallah, Chief Executive)
- Colin Tattam, Director Net Zero and Sustainable Industries, Innovate UK Business Connect
- Ross Holden, GMB Union (deputising for Andy Prendergast)

### Members - virtual

- Professor Carol Eastwick, Head of Mechanical and Aerospace Systems Research Group, UK Aerospace Research Consortium
- Val Miftakhov, Chief Executive Officer, ZeroAvia
- Dr Jennifer Holmgren, Chief Executive Officer, LanzaTech
- Prof. David Lee, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Centre for Aviation, Transport and the Environment, Manchester Metropolitan University

### Department for Transport Officials

- Rannia Leontaridi, Director General for Aviation, Maritime and Security (virtual)
- David Silk, Director for Aviation
- Joe Delafield, Acting Joint Head of Aviation Decarbonisation, DfT
- Ann-Therese Farmer, Director for Environmental Strategy
- Annette Pass, Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor (Deputising for Professor Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Advisor)

### Department for Business and Trade Officials

- Paul Griffiths, Head of Aerospace and Space Team

### Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Officials

- Ryan McLaughlin, Director, Net Zero Strategy

### Additional Attendees

- Stef Lehmann, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Transport
- Jack Glynn, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade
- Ministerial Private Secretaries
- Jet Zero Council Secretariat, DfT (minute taking)

### Apologies

- The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Simon Burr MBE, Group Director, Engineering and Technology, Rolls-Royce (deputy attended)



## Department for Transport

- Louise Kingham OBE, UK Head of Country and Senior Vice President for Europe, bp (deputy attended)
- Professor Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Advisor, DfT (deputing attended)
- Luke Farajallah, Chief Executive, Loganair (deputy attended)
- Andy Prendergast, GMB Union (deputy attended)

### Actions

- Jet Zero Taskforce Expert Group to review the Terms of Reference and provide an update to Plenary members.
- Transport Secretary to meet with airlines to further understand the role of airspace modernisation in aviation decarbonisation.

### Summary of Meeting Readout

#### 1. HMG Welcome

The Transport Secretary opened the meeting. She explained that delivering a greener aviation sector whilst also supporting growth in the industry is a priority for Government. She noted it was fantastic to see so many from the sector and welcomed their views on decarbonising aviation.

The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds highlighted that aviation is a hard sector to decarbonise but that good progress is being made. He noted ambitions for a UK sustainable aviation fuel industry and the importance of the energy sector in supporting it. He also noted that aviation decarbonisation provides a significant investment opportunity and the role of the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI). He concluded by noting that aviation decarbonisation is an issue to which the Department for Transport, Department for Business and Trade and the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero are all committed.

Minister Jones agreed with the preceding remarks, noting particularly the importance of sustainable aviation fuel and hydrogen in meeting the UK's 2050 net zero target.

#### 2. Jet Zero Taskforce Purpose and Objectives

David Silk, Director of Aviation (Department for Transport) outlined the challenge in decarbonising the aviation sector and range of measures that will be required to reduce carbon emissions. He also noted that there will be residual emissions from aviation in 2050, which require out of sector greenhouse gas removals (GGRs). He explained many of these emission savings rely on new technologies which are in the early stages of development and that there is high uncertainty about their costs and abatement potential. He stressed that collaboration across government and the UK aviation sector is essential to meet these challenges.

David Silk then set out the purpose, objectives and approach of the [Jet Zero Taskforce](#). He noted the group will focus on the following:

- Supporting both **SAF** and **zero emission flight**;
- Exploring further **efficiency gains** across the whole aviation system;
- Ensuring aviation's **demand for cross-economy dependencies** are properly understood; and
- Working together to better understand and address aviation's **non-CO2** impacts



## Department for Transport

David then outlined the structure of the Jet Zero Taskforce, noting:

- The **Plenary**, which will provide strategic direction and review overall progress
- The **Expert Group** – chaired by Minister Kane, Minister Jones and Holly Boyd-Boland – which will determine and drive the work programme; and
- Up to four **Task and Finish Groups**, which will deliver on the agreed outputs of the group.

Duncan McCourt (Sustainable Aviation) then set out the [Sustainable Aviation Roadmap](#), industry's agreed trajectory to net zero aviation by 2050. He reminded members that there is no silver bullet to aviation decarbonisation and that members must work together to drive technological developments and commercialisation of new fuels and technologies. He recognised the cost of decarbonisation may reduce passenger demand and that further government intervention on demand was not necessary. He noted hydrogen production, use and storage, carbon capture and non-CO2 as three key potential areas of focus for the Taskforce.

Emma Pinchbeck (Climate Change Committee (CCC)) noted that the CCC will advise government on the Seventh Carbon Budget (2038-2042) in Spring 2025. She noted the need for the sector to drive technology and fuel-based solutions to decarbonisation, the importance of carbon markets and that demand management levers will need to be kept under consideration if progress is not made.

The Transport Secretary then chaired a discussion with members on the Taskforce Terms of Reference and future priorities. Key discussion points included:

- Overall support for the proposed approach, particularly the fact that the Taskforce brings together three government departments and the wide range of stakeholders from across the sector. Some comment on the need to recognise the role of airspace modernisation in the Terms of Reference, while noting it has a bespoke programme separate to the Taskforce. Agreement for the Expert Group to further consider and report back to the Plenary.
- Recognition of the importance of the Taskforce having measurable outcomes, with progress in decarbonising the sector being monitored by the Expert Group and discussed at the Plenary.
- Agreement on the necessity of collaboration between government and industry, and recognition that a variety of measures will be needed to decarbonise aviation.
- Support for an objective on non-CO2, with recognition of the challenge in balancing action with ongoing scientific uncertainty and the need to consider it alongside other objectives.
- The importance of finance and confidence to invest in new fuels and technologies. Members were pleased to see the recent funding commitment to the Aerospace Technology Institute and emphasised the need to move quickly on a SAF revenue certainty mechanism.
- The benefits of a 'next big moment' in aviation decarbonisation which could have a similar impact to the 100% SAF flight in 2023. A "moonshot" 2028 hydrogen aircraft demonstrator or contrail trial were suggested as potential options.

### 3. Discussion on SAF

Due to time constraints this agenda item was combined with the previous discussion. However, the following points specific to SAF were raised:

- The progress on the SAF mandate was recognised, with some members noting that there must be sufficient production in place.



## Department for Transport

- Members commented that the commitment to the revenue certainty mechanism (RCM) was welcome but concerns remain about how quickly and effectively it will support the scale-up of production.
- It was noted that the UK has the potential to become a global SAF player, and members noted the job opportunities SAF can provide across the UK.

### **4. Closing remarks & AOB**

David Silk summarised the meeting, noting that the complexity and scale of aviation decarbonisation is clear and that collaboration through the Taskforce is key. Ann-Therese Farmer (DfT) thanked members for their support on the SAF mandate, and welcomed industry contributions to the ongoing development of the revenue certainty mechanism.

Minister Kane thanked members, and particularly Holly Boyd Boland for agreeing to co-chair the Expert Group alongside himself and Minister Jones, noting the first meeting will take place in January. The Transport Secretary concluded the meeting by thanking members for their contributions and noting the next Plenary meeting will take place in 2025.