

Aviation and Defence Management Board - Minutes

Date and Time: 10:00-11:30, Thursday 22nd January 2026

Location: 3-8 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Organisations in attendance:

Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
Department for Transport (DfT)
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Scottish Government
Welsh Government
Northern Ireland Executive
RenewableUK
ONWARD 2030
The Aviation Investment Fund Company Limited (AIFCL)
AirportsUK
NATS

Summary

- Chair opened the meeting and welcomed new members to the Board.
- Secretariat provided an update on minutes and actions from the previous meeting.
- DESNZ provided progress updates on the actions owned by DESNZ in the Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy:
 - Action 22 – Commission an annual survey of onshore wind impacts on aviation and defence infrastructure
DESNZ provided a progress update on the research. Fieldwork is due to begin at the end of January and results of the first survey will be made available in Spring 2026.
 - Action 29 – Explore the creation of a ‘mitigation fund’ to issue financial support to civil airports who require radar upgrades
DESNZ provided a progress update on ongoing stakeholder engagement and confirmed an options paper will be shared with the Board in Spring 2026. AirportsUK provided an update on ongoing engagement with their members.
 - Action 30 & 31 – Actions in relation to Eskdalemuir
Both DESNZ and MoD provided a progress update on ongoing actions in relation to Eskdalemuir. DESNZ intend to issue a consultation in Q1 2026.
- MoD provided progress updates on the actions owned by MOD in the Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy:
 - Action 24 – Co-ordinate a developer-funded programme of trials to test potential solutions to onshore wind turbine interference with MoD air traffic control radars
MoD outlined potential mitigation options and associated timelines.
 - Action 25 – Introduce a developer-funded, full-time post in the MoD
MoD confirmed that Action 25 was dependent on the agreement of funding for Action 24. Until such time that funding is agreed, Action 25 remains dormant.
- The CAA provided progress updates on the actions owned by the CAA and DfT in the Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy:

- Action 23 – Develop best practice guidance on use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) when resolving aviation objections
CAA gave an update and presented draft guidance to the Board. Board members were invited to provide comment.
- Action 26 – Explore creating a new post in CAA
CAA presented an updated job profile for the full-time post. The chair provided an update on possible funding for the role. Board members were invited to provide comment.
- Action 27 – Review and publish updated CAP764 guidance
CAA noted that updated CAP764 guidance was published in December 2025. This action is now marked as complete.
- Action 28 – Review of regulations to consider options to require civil aerodromes to procure new primary surveillance radars that have windfarm mitigation capabilities
CAA set out the different options to require new primary surveillance radars to have windfarm mitigation capabilities, with associated costs and benefits. Board members were invited to provide comment.
- The Board heard the presentation of a case study. It was agreed for DfT and DESNZ to work with AirportsUK and RenewableUK on next steps.
- Chair set out next steps:
 - Progress on Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy commitments will be reported into the Onshore Wind Council.
 - Secretariat to share minutes and actions with the Board following the meeting.
- Chair called the meeting to a close.