

## Aviation and Defence Management Board - Minutes

**Date and Time:** 10:30-12:00, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 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.
- In the context of the recent Government announcement on Further and Faster, DfT agreed to establish a formal working group with DESNZ to resolve the issue of onshore wind interference with civil aviation radar, noting aviation safety challenges and resourcing constraints.
- 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 provided different approaches for the Board to consider, who requested information on the relevant timelines for these. An example case was discussed.
  - Action 26 – Explore creating a new post in CAA  
Chair reiterated that there was no funding available from Government. The Board considered alternative funding sources. Members noted the importance of this post to progressing actions in the Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy, and of ensuring the post covered the appropriate responsibilities.
  - Action 27 – Review and publish updated CAP764 guidance  
CAA noted this action is now closed.
  - Action 28 – Review of regulations to consider options to require civil aerodromes to procure new primary surveillance radars that have windfarm mitigation capabilities  
CAA provided options for the Board to consider, which the Board then discussed.
- 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 timelines for the survey re-run and reiterated that this would include cross-checking developer contact details and piloting. Survey analysis is due to be completed in October.

- Action 29 – Explore the creation of a ‘mitigation fund’ to issue financial support to civil airports who require radar upgrades  
DESNZ updated on their scoping paper and announced next steps. DESNZ will share the paper more widely and, after analysing feedback, draft a more detailed paper for Board members to review ahead of the July Onshore Wind Council meeting. DESNZ confirmed that any mitigation fund would only encompass civil radar mitigations.
- Action 30 & 31 – Actions in relation to Eskdalemuir  
DESNZ shared an update on timelines for the Eskdalemuir consultation and the independent science review. The consultation has been extended. An independent science review is being conducted. The government response, and subsequent policy development, will follow its findings.
- 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 shared that a report on the indicative delivery approach towards a programme of trials has been shared with impacted developers, which includes timelines and costings. Board members noted that the next few weeks are crucial to impacted developers, who are approaching grid connection deadlines.
- Onward 2030 provided a summary of the Scottish Sector Deal
  - Onward 2030 highlighted that despite challenges getting engagement from stakeholders, the work packages produced as part of their Scottish Sector Deal provide a useful starting point for further action. They highlighted the packages on radar mitigation and recommendations for DfT and the CAA as particularly relevant to the Board.
  - The Chair and Board members thanked Onward 2030 for developing the Sector Deal and presenting on it to the Board. The Chair stated that DESNZ will work with Board members to take forward and build on the Sector Deal.
  - Board members agreed on the importance of government leadership to drive engagement from stakeholders, and of effective, regular communication.
  - Welsh Government shared a copy of the Renewable Energy Sector Deal for Wales.
- Chair welcomed any other business from attendees
  - AIFCL informed the Board that they have approved funding for a study into baseline radar mitigation requirements. The CAA has reviewed this and is happy with the scope of work. This will provide greater clarity on mitigation requirements for radar systems impacted by the presence of onshore wind turbines.
- Chair set out next steps:
  - Progress on Onshore Wind Taskforce Strategy commitments will be reported into the Onshore Wind Council.
  - Secretariat will share minutes and actions with the Board following the meeting.
- Chair called the meeting to a close.