

Combined Aerodrome Safeguarding Team (CAST)

CAST Meeting 14

Thursday 30th January 2025

Virtual Meeting



Minutes

AGENDA ITEM 1: Introduction – CAST co-Chair Mike Sparrow, Policy Specialist Aerodromes, CAA

AGENDA ITEM 2: Report from Chair of Technical Focus Group – Matt Roberts, Policy Principal Aerodromes, CAA

Sub-groups currently not very active. This should change when the new OLS come in.

a. CAP 785 – IFP Update – Jean Francois Soldano (JFS), Principal Airspace Regulator, CAA

JFS highlighted the CAA activities with respect to the provision of IFP services and focused on the rulemaking activity to amend the current regulation and the 5-yearly review of IFPs.

[Link to slides.](#)

b. CNS (Communication, Navigation & Surveillance) Group Update – Stuart Rankin (SR), Policy Principal CNS & Spectrum, CAA

SR advised that the CNS focus group are looking to arrange the next meeting in Spring 2025. Attendees to the group are quite light with 5/6 regular attendees.

Whilst currently paused due to resource issues, the CNS focus group intend to publish a CNS safeguarding best practice guide which could be embedded into a CAA Publication.

SR gave an update of CAA work in the CNS area:

- Jamming/spoofing

Currently being explored with the MOD.

CAA has stood up a safety risk group chaired by Emily James (CAA) trying to establish the UK threat, incidents that are going on.

There are also a number of incidents in the Middle East which are being explored in the UK to determine the risk and how it can be monitored.

- Counter UAS (C-UAS) technology

C-UAS is used to detect, classify, and mitigate drones and other unmanned aerial systems (UAS). CAA looking into how this can be managed.

- Deployment of terminal earth satellite stations uplinks

Terminal earth satellite stations uplinks are high powered uplinks used by news gathering outlets. There is an existing process in to ensure airfields are protected. The process is there but the list of protected facilities is out of date. CAA looking into how this can be more efficient.

- Ofcom calls for input

Ofcom are looking into how to make the 1492-1517 MHz frequency block within the 1.4 GHz band available. CAA are working with Ofcom on the proposals. The expectation is that over time aircraft will be updated which will eliminate any interference. CAA intend to promote Ofcom's consultation with relevant stakeholders who are likely to be impacted.

Q: Primary radar and interference from wind farms is a key subject. Every airport has a different way of assessing the technical impact. Discussion needs to be around operational impacts. Common way of measuring radar interference needed.

A: Awareness that policy/guidance is not ideal. Potential to use CNS group to establish common guidance.

Diane Jackson raised that the [Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce](#) aim to publish a roadmap to solutions this year.

c. CAP 1096 Cranes Update – Stephen Parry (SP), Principal Airspace Regulator, CAA

CAP 1096 update to come which will include:

- Update on ACOMS (verbally updated that this is working well)
- Incorporation of ICAO OLS guidance
- Update on a trial with Manchester Airport. The trial will be to increase the circle from 6km to 15km to provide them with more awareness of the activity around them. It will not be mandated for crane applications beyond 6km but will provide insight into how the change can be made to the ACOMS system and the impact at Manchester.

Q: Representative of ALLMI (Trade Association for the Lorry Loader Industry) has been in communication with CAA since 2019. The previous Airspace Regulator involved with CAP 1096 would give update to crane industry. Calls for SP to be involved in a similar way. SP agreed.

Q: Clarify that all applications for cranes above 10metres within 6km need to be sent to ACOMS?

A: Yes and encouraged for all to go to aerodrome too.

d. CAP 1732 – Aerodrome Survey Guidance – Justina Wieszok (JW), Policy Specialist AIM/DAT

JW took us through online AIP and focused on aerodrome obstacles. AIP is lengthy so the intention is to be able to see information presented as datasets.

JW provided an update on a CAP 1732 workshop which was held at Aviation House 15th January 2025.

[Link to slides.](#)

AGENDA ITEM 3: Report from Chair of GA Focus Group – Matt Wilkins, Airfield Manager, Old Buckenham Airfield

Representatives of GA Focus Group are promulgating CAST guidance through various forums such as APPG and emailing contacts on the VFR flight guides database.

Briefing notes have been prepared by members of the GA focus group on the potential impact to aerodromes as a result of pylon applications.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Report from Chair of Regulations and Legislations Group – CAST co-Chair Diane Jackson (DJ) – Aerodrome Safeguarding Officer MAG

DJ presented a summary of updates.

[Link to slides.](#)

Of importance is the need to be aware of solar power / onshore wind schemes that are going through DCO process rather than LPA process. Potential for PINS to not consult.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Report from Chair of UK Wildlife Hazard Management Committee (UK WHMC) – Mark Freeman, Policy Specialist, Aerodromes

CAA have gone to the Home Office Enforcement Board with items on firearms license / RFID process. Expect an update in February. Following an update, MF will get in touch with aerodromes.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Review of Aerodrome Safeguarding Circular – CAST co-Chair Diane Jackson – Aerodrome Safeguarding Officer MAG

Diane updated in DfT's absence.

In Autumn 2024, a meeting was attended at DfT office by representatives of CAA and aerodrome safeguarding teams (Diane Jackson and Amanda Purdye).

Conclusion was that it would be good to sync the Aerodrome Safeguarding Circular with new ICAO OLS. Typically, with government changes to legislation, DfT are required to request parliamentary time. DfT need to speak to legal advisors to determine next steps. DJ referenced update re: statutory consultation (Agenda item 4) as there is concern that some aerodromes aren't on the list of statutory consultees.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ICAO OLS Update – Matt Roberts (MR), Policy Principal Aerodromes, CAA

MR presented slides on the new ICAO OLS.

[Link to slides.](#)

- Timeline

Second State letter will take into consideration responses to the first letter.

ICAO webinars will provide an opportunity for Q&As.

CAA webinars will provide an opportunity to collaborate. Q&As will be published in a document. Once that's been given time to review then workshops will take place.

Public Consultation on citizen space through the rule making task.

- Surfaces details

Most important change is that surfaces will be designed to aeroplane design group

Very similar to PANSOPS. This is not replacing PANSOPS which will still exist.

Q: Quite detailed surfaces close in. What's the time period for getting people trained through to implementation? Anticipate 2-3 years from finalising what is required to inspections.

A: Applicability from 2030. Rulemaking process will consider all the queries that come forward. Should 2030 not be possible this will have to be considered when reviewing consultation responses.

Q: Will there be grant funding to support with the costs that will be required to make these changes?

A: Suggested to ensure this is captured in consultation. For IFPs, airports already do 5 year reviews so changes should be captured in BAU processes.

Q: Are the proposed generic ICAO OES/OFS surfaces a lowest common denominator i.e. will they cover all aerodromes IFPs etc, or will aerodromes be required to bespoke their surfaces to adequately safeguard things such as IFPs?

A: The aerodromes will need to conduct an aeronautical study to determine what OES/OFS will be required which will require a check to be conducted for impact against their IFPs to ensure they remain safe. Each aerodrome will be different, and there is the possibility to bespoke the surfaces within the design of the new OLS.

AGENDA ITEM 8: AOB – Mike Sparrow, Policy Specialist Aerodromes, CAA.

None.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Date & Venue of the next meeting (CAST/14)

Date and time of next meeting to follow.

If you have any queries or need any further information, please contact any member of your CAST team at CAST@CAA.CO.UK