



AirportsUK | Working Groups & Committees | Airports

Aerodrome Safeguarding Working Group

The Aerodrome Safeguarding Working Group consists of airport members responsible for safeguarding activities at their respective airports. This group brings together the AirportsUK members under the safeguarding discipline to act as a single point of contact for airport safeguarding technical and regulatory matters in the UK. Safeguarding activities at an aerodrome involve liaising with Local Planning Authorities, analysing the impact on the airports safe operations due to a development including: the building heights, landscaping, wildlife hazards, impact on CNS equipment and instrument flight procedures (IFPs), glint and glare, lighting and obstacle lighting. The main purpose of the working group is to exchange best practice and technical expertise, to debate and consult on regulatory development and to liaise with the CAA on changes in the current and or future regulatory framework. The membership works towards ensuring consistent standards are being delivered by all stakeholders in the industry. The Working Group meets at least twice a year, and also holds an annual seminar by visiting one of the airports. During these meetings, industry professionals discuss relevant practices, new regulations, and aim to upscale their skills through bespoke workshops. They also liaise with industry experts to learn about new technologies and trends.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Sub-working group: drones use in daily operations (airports only)

This group is composed of SMEs from the Aerodrome Safety, compliance and safeguarding, along with some members of the airspace team. The primary focus is on integrating drones into daily airport operations, including their use for approach light inspections, surveys, project documentation, and more. The sub-working group aims to address key challenges faced by airports, with a major topic of discussion being the increasing volume of drone permit applications from both internal and external stakeholders. The group will explore strategies to manage this influx effectively. Additionally, the group has agreed to focus on establishing guidelines for regular drone operations within airport perimeters, ensuring safe and efficient integration into existing workflows.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Aerodrome Safety & Compliance Working Group

Operations managers and directors from airports come together with specialist stakeholders in the Aerodrome Safety & Compliance Working Group to facilitate and actively promote technical knowledge & best practice sharing and achieving the highest levels of Safety and Compliance in a consistent manner across Aerodromes. The group coordinates consultation and open communication with Aerodromes and regulatory bodies to ensure safe working practices, supported by robust reporting methods in all relevant operational business units. The discussions within the group cover a



wide range of topics, including runway safety, proposed ICAO Annex 14 amendments, compliance requirements and aerodrome audits. Additionally, there is a focus on ensuring smooth airport operations during the winter season, studying existing and emerging safety risks (such as runway incursions and excursions, laser attacks, etc), and identifying potential solutions to mitigate their impact. The group is also responsible for managing the implementation of regulatory developments and requirements.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Airspace & Air Traffic Services Working Group (AATS)

The Airspace and Air Traffic Services Working Group (AATS) was formed in 2018 when the Airspace Modernisation Strategy was first published, and in response to new developments in order to ensure best practice sharing on a number of issues in the Air Traffic industry. The group takes the lead on a range of topics from the changing regulatory landscape of ATS, ranging from Airspace Modernisation, and integration of new technologies for new airspace users to ATCOs skills and resilience. This dynamic group is interested in sharing knowledge and best practice while ensuring fair representation for all ANSPs. Through AirportsUK, we work closely with CAA, DfT, and other relevant industry bodies to influence regulatory reforms. Our main goal is to flag any conflicts between existing regulations and proposed new ones, such as the new Information Security Management System (ISMS) related to cybersecurity and ensure a smooth transition.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

General Counsels Forum (airports only)

The AirportsUK General Counsel Forum's purpose and scope is to discuss matters of common interest to UK airports and with respect to members' roles within each airport. This will include legal, governance, compliance and regulatory matters affecting the aviation industry in the UK. The group will act in accordance with each airport's confidentiality obligations regarding its own and its business partners' information. The group will not discuss any matters which could put members at risk of breaching competition law.

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director, AirportsUK

Health & Safety Working Group (H&S)

The group represents a broad mix of UK airports and specialist stakeholders to collaborate on subjects of common interest and purpose. It seeks to improve its collective ability to manage occupational health and safety risks, a platform where members consider arising risks and feed into other industry groups or consultations. The group openly shares information, performance, procedures, learning from incidents, and best practice experiences to benefit wider upskilling and focuses on maximising



best practice by sharing safety performance metrics allowing for UK airport benchmarking. The group meets quarterly and organises at least one annual visit to the airport to share best practices. Members are also invited to join other working groups such as RFFS, which reviews risks associated with new technology and conducts trials to ensure that procedures and standards are taken into account. The Health & Safety Group is the lead AirportsUK group for the organisation of the very successful annual national campaign supported by CAA: UK Airports Health & Safety Week, which includes an award for the top three finalists.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Planners Forum (airports only)

The Planners Forum meets three times a year. Two virtual meetings and one in person. There is the opportunity for regular emails between Planners to raise issues and share best practice. This is administered and facilitated through the AirportsUK. The types of issues covered are: Permitted Development Rights, Compulsory Purchase Orders, Surface Access, and Masterplans. The forum works in close collaboration with the Sustainability Working Group due to the overlapping of issues.

Rupinder Pamme, Senior Policy Manager, AirportsUK

Policy Committee (airports only)

The Policy Committee forms and shapes AirportsUK's positions on public policy issues and Government proposals. It meets both formally to update on and discuss a full range of issues, as well as ad hoc to take up specific issues as they arise. Current issues include taxation of aviation, sustainability issues, borders, airspace modernisation and airport/airline regulatory policy. The Policy Committee receives input from other bodies listed here on their areas of expertise.

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director, AirportsUK

Public Affairs & Communications Network (PACN) (airports only)

The AirportsUK's work in representing UK airports to politicians and the wider public is supported by the Public Affairs and Communications Network (PACN), which gathers-communications professionals from member airports. It informs and discusses AirportsUK's media priorities and tactics as well as outreach to MPs (including the Aviation, Tourism and Aerospace APPG), MSPs, MSs, MLAs and other directly elected figures across the UK. PACN also offers the opportunity for airport colleagues to connect over work they are doing in support of their businesses.

Peter Campbell, Head of Public Affairs & Media, AirportsUK



Rescue & Fire Fighting Services Working Group (RFFS)

Airport Fire Managers and Senior Fire Service Officers from airports come together to share best practice and regulatory concerns which may affect the Rescue and Fire Fighting Services.

The group works closely with industry experts such as the Civil Aviation Authority and other government agencies such as the Environmental Agency to collaborate on professional discussions and industry engagement. The focus of these discussions is on various topics such as the recruitment of Firefighters, the use of PFAS, the review of new hydrogen trials, sharing lessons learned on car park fires, and new technology available or sharing best practice to manage and contain electric fires. The group also implements RFFS Medical Standards and emergency preparedness around airport fuel farms. The group meets quarterly and organises at least one annual visit to the airport to share best practice. Moreover, this group arranges ad-hoc joint forums with the H&S group to discuss particular trends or risks based on member's feedback, a prime example of such a forum is the associated risk with lithium-ion batteries in small devices and personal equipment.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Sub-working group: Fire safety management

This group is composed of SMEs from the Health & Safety, RFFS, and Fire Safety sectors, formed to address specific risks, as fire safety is often included under general health and safety. The Group's aim is to enhance collaboration and share best practice among fire safety professionals in UK airports. It will focus on developing industry-wide fire safety policies and standards, with initial discussions covering topics such as Article 22 compliance, fire risk assessments, evacuation management, and lithium-ion battery safety.

Adele Gammarano, Head of Regulation & Compliance, AirportsUK

Security Working Group (CTC security clearance required to attend meetings)

AirportsUK Security Working Group gathers security compliance managers and airport heads of security to discuss the latest iterations of aviation security regulation, changing threats to aviation and the technology to respond to those threats. The Security Group is joined on a quarterly basis by representatives from the AirportsUK's non-airport members who contribute a supply-wide perspective to discussions. The group is also joined by representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority and Department for Transport who update airports and other attendees on the latest thinking regarding aviation security from Central Government. Recent topics of focus for the group include the Next Generation Security, the Access Pass Holders Information Distribution System (APHIDS).

Rupinder Pamme, Senior Policy Manager, AirportsUK



Sustainability Working Group

AirportsUK runs a Sustainability Working Group bringing together Sustainability and Environment Managers from across member airports to discuss and take collective action on the sector's commitment to Climate Change obligations and other issues. The group meets four times a year: twice in person and twice virtually. The key issues identified for the coming years are climate change, noise, waste and adaptation. AirportsUK's full engagement in this area is also addressed by our participation in (and part funding of) the cross-industry Sustainable Aviation (SA) group. This group receives feedback via AirportsUK on SA's work and shapes AirportsUK's input to it.

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director, AirportsUK

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