

AIRPORTSUK | AIRPORTS OPERATIONS CONFERENCE 2026
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF UK AIRPORT OPERATIONS: REGULATION, INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE

Day 1 | Regulation, Innovation & Resilience in Practice

1000 | Arrival and registration

1100 | Introductory remarks

Victoria MacRae, Head of Regulations, Operations and Compliance – AirportsUK

1110 | Welcome Address

Andrew Bell, Chief Executive – Regional & City Airports

Summary: The CEO of RCA will welcome everyone to Bournemouth and the conference, and give his thoughts on operations

1130 | Keynote from Government & Regulator

Jon Round, Head of Airspace, Air Traffic Management and Aerodromes – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Ian Elston (TBC), Deputy Director for Airspace, Airports, Resilience and Connectivity – Department for Transport

Summary: Hear the latest updates from the heart of government and the regulator about airport operations

1200 | Commercial Presentation

1210 | Regulatory & Policy Landscape

Mike Sparrow, Aerodromes Policy Specialist – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Joseph Silverman, Head of Aviation Resilience – Department for Transport

Summary: What policy developments can airports expect over the coming year and through measures like the aviation bill

1230 | Networking lunch

1330 | Charging Ahead Safely: Fire Risk in the Electrified Airport

Graeme Day, RFFS Policy – UK Civil Aviation Authority

John Trew, Technical Director – FALCK Fire

More speakers to be confirmed

Summary: How airports can strengthen preparedness, adapt emergency response strategies, and develop consistent safety standards to manage these emerging risks effectively

1400 | Aviation Skills Shortage: Staffing the Future

Andrew Bell, Chief Executive – Regional & City Airports

Sophie Jones, Head of Customer Experience – UK Civil Aviation Authority

More speakers to be confirmed

Summary: How the sector can modernise training, strengthen recruitment and retention, and build a sustainable workforce strategy that can flex with new technology, new operating models and future capacity demands

1440 | Climate Adaptation

Amy Dickinson, Sustainability Director - Egis

Summary: How airports are adapting to more frequent, extreme weather-related disruption as a result of the changing climate

1500 | Commercial Presentation

1510 | Break & Networking

1530 | Crisis Response – Part 1

Speakers to be confirmed

Summary: A session looking at incident response, operational continuity and lessons learned

1550 | Crisis Response – Part 2

Speakers to be confirmed

Summary: A panel discussion how airports can strengthen resilience through closer collaboration between RFFS, aerodrome safety teams and air traffic control

1610 | Technology & Data in Operations

Carly Waddleton, Chief Customer Officer - OneReg,

Speaker from Sita plus other speakers to be confirmed

Summary: Exploring the growing role of data and digitalisation in operational oversight

1640 | Closing Remarks and end of day one

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director - AirportsUK

1930 | Pre-dinner Drinks

2000 | Dinner

Day 2 | Making Airports Work: People, Airspace & Performance

0800 | Breakfast

0900 | Welcome & Recap from Day One

Victoria MacRae, Head of Regulations, Operations and Compliance – AirportsUK

0910 | Keynote Address from NATS

Steve Fox (TBC), Director Operations Control – NATS

0930 | Commercial Presentation

0940 | Accessibility: Making Airports Work for Everyone

James Freemantle, Senior Manager, Consumer Policy and Enforcement – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director – AirportsUK

Callum Glazier, Heathrow

Summary: How the sector can develop practical and achievable actions to improve accessibility across the aviation sector

1020 | Keeping the Airfield Safe While Building the Future

Speakers to be confirmed

Summary: How airports can remain fully operational amid major construction and infrastructure upgrades

1100 | Break & Networking

1120 | Ground Handling & Airside Compliance

Mike Sparrow, Aerodromes Policy Specialist – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Steve Parry, Principal Aerodrome Inspector – UK Civil Aviation Authority

More speakers to be confirmed

Summary: Examining the new expectations for ground handling oversight and performance standards

1150 | Commercial Presentation

1200 | Airspace Modernisation: Supporting the Transition from OLS to OFS & OES

Mike Sparrow, Obstacle and Aerodrome Safeguarding Policy Specialist – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Summary: Better aligning safeguarding with modern, performance-based aviation operations

1230 | Summary of Day two and closing remarks

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director - AirportsUK

1235 | Buffet lunch and conference close

* Speakers, topics & timings may be subject to change