

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

Joe Silverman, Head of Aviation Resilience – Department for Transport

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

1200 | Commercial Presentation

1210 | Regulatory Landscape

Mike Sparrow, Aerodromes Policy Specialist – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Summary: New Regulations, Balancing Compliance and Operational Flexibility

1230 | Networking lunch

1330 | Managing Diversions: Safety, Capacity and Coordination

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

Summary: The session will review the operational and safety challenges associated with aircraft diversions and opportunities for improved industry collaboration.

1350 | Charging Ahead Safely: Fire Risk in the Electrified Airport

Matt Kilyon, Head of Fire and Resilience - Bristol Airport

Graeme Day, RFFS Policy – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Rob Mitchell, Head of Safety – Bournemouth International Airport

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

1420 | From Accident to Insight – Lessons in Crisis Response

Lisa Fitzsimons, Principal Inspector of Air Accidents (Engineering) – Air Accident Investigation Branch

Summary: The session will explore lessons from the AAIB response to the Southend Airport accident and considerations for effective incident management.

1450 | Break & Networking

1510 | Technology & Data in Operations

Carly Waddleton, Chief Customer Officer - OneReg,

Nick Batchelor, VP Innovation, Apps and Data – Sita

Stephen Muir, Aviation Regulation and Compliance Manager – Edinburgh Airport

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

1540 | Aviation Skills Shortage: Staffing the Future

Andrew Bell, Chief Executive – Regional & City Airports

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

Jenny Ludford, Director Operations Training - NATS

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

1610 | Commercial Presentation

1620 | 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

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

Chris Norsworthy, Director Transformation Strategy & Development – NATS

0930 | Commercial Presentation**0940 | Drones and Uncrewed Aircraft**

Speakers to be confirmed

Summary: A session looking at infringements and how unmanned traffic management systems will operate

1000 | Accessibility: Making Airports Work for Everyone

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

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director – AirportsUK

Callum Glazier, Head of Services – Heathrow Airport

Abhi Chacko, Founder – Ostrum

Aimee Economou, Head of Service – Wilson James

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

1040 | Ground Handling & Airside Compliance

Mike Sparrow, Aerodromes Policy Specialist – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Steve Parry, Principal Aerodrome Inspector – UK Civil Aviation Authority

Trevor Waldock, Head of Airside Operations - Heathrow Airport

Sharon Smith, Head of Operational Safety Improvement – Heathrow Airport

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

1100 | Break & Networking**1120 | Commercial Presentation****1130 | Keeping the Airfield Safe While Building the Future**

Emile McDonald Williams – Head of Health and Safety and Fire Safety – Stansted Airport

Heather Taylor, Strategic Account Director – Wilson James

Lisa Allen, Aerodrome Compliance Manager – Heathrow Airport

Speakers to be confirmed

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

1210 | Summary of Day two and closing remarks

Christopher Snelling, Policy Director - AirportsUK

1220 | Buffet lunch and conference close

* Speakers, topics & timings may be subject to change