



Aviation Management Board Meeting

RenewableUK, Greencoat House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DH

Date: Thursday 24 July 2014

Present

CG	Chris Gormley	DECC – Chair
JH	Jon Hayward	DECC
AW	Andy Wells	CAA
DB	David Best	DfT
DBo	David Boyd	MOD
PG	Paul Gallagher	MOD
MB	Mark Balsdon	NATS
DGC	Dujon Goncalves-Collins	RUK
ZK	Zoe Keeton	RWE (RUK)
DJ	David Jones	RWE (AIFCL deputy)
SC	Simon Coote	Scottish Government
MC	Matt Clear	The Crown Estate

Apologies

Simon Heyes	Infinis (AIFCL Chair)
Matt Partridge	RUK

Introduction, Minutes & Actions

1. CG opened the meeting, noted apologies and agreed the agenda.
2. The draft minutes from the 24 April AMB were approved without amendment. CG ran through the outstanding actions. Actions 52, 53 and 55 were agreed to have been completed. AW provided an update on the aircraft communications research thus discharging Action 54. However, it was unclear whether the CAA had completed Action 44 so AW agreed to review. On Action 57, CAA and DCG had met with AoA. It was agreed that the Action remained open and DCG should assume joint ownership. Actions 51 and 56 were discussed as a substantive agenda item.

Aviation Plan Progress Report

3. JH gave an overview of the dashboard report. The main highlight concerned progress with Eskdalemuir. The Scottish Government had published its interim planning guidance on 22 May and the MOD had begun the process to release

its planning objections. DJ confirmed that the FMB had agreed to provide funding towards a new 'tool' that would allow MOD to assess planning applications that came forward after January 2014.

4. It was noted that MOD had reviewed the risk ratings around the Military ATC 'Next steps' workstream to better reflect the work to be done.

Fund Management Board (FMB) Update

5. DJ gave the Board a brief update on the FMB's earlier discussions. In particular, DJ would be standing down as AIFCL Vice-Chair and would be replaced in the interim period by Simon Christian of Scottish Power. The Board recognised the valuable contribution DJ had made to the aviation/renewables agenda in recent years both as a member and vice-chair of the AIFCL.

MOD Update

6. PG confirmed that a considerable amount of work was being conducted on ATC 'next steps' and that MOD is optimistic that it can progress a number of issues that were identified during the Technological Demonstration. An internal discussion is underway in the Department that is seeking to address the balance of risk in relation to safety and infrastructure. There is a desire in MOD to run a pilot project and there is an expectation that MOD should be able to provide more clarity on funding and heads of terms to the Working Group by the end of August.
7. On air defence, PG advised that air defence radars were due to be delivered to RAF Buchan and RAF Benbecula by mid-summer. A total of 5 out of 6 radars will then have been upgraded. Some radars had proved to be more 'popular' in terms of wind farm mitigation and the technical limit had therefore been reached at those sites. MOD is working to deliver increased NAIZ capacity within 6-9 months. However, MOD is unable to guarantee that all projects that come forward will be mitigated and that the assessment process will remain on a case by case basis. MOD is proposing to conduct some work to assess the radar's overall capacity to mitigate turbines and its intrinsic ability to mitigate small, single turbines. Timings are currently being developed and the next AMB should provide an opportunity to update.

Action 58: MOD to develop ATC milestones for the dashboard.

Action 59: RUK to investigate/identify possible sites for inclusion in the single turbine study

Action 60: MOD and RUK to consider comms on MOD workstreams – specifically on the single turbine study.

CAA Presentation

8. AW gave a presentation on the Future Airspace Strategy (FAS) Deployment Plan and provided an update on the Spectrum Release Programme. The presentation noted that, if FAS initiatives are not deployed successfully, key areas of inefficiency in the current ATM system will intensify as demand for air transport increases between 2014 and 2030, creating bottle necks, imposing costs and restricting growth. FAS Deployment aims to deliver ATM improvements through the implementation of new capabilities across the En-route, Terminal and Runway.
9. Scoping work was underway in CAA on windfarm tolerant ATC technology and CG noted that there may be correlation between the MOD next steps and CAA requirements. CAA and MOD agreed to meet to discuss overlap of Spectrum release, Project Marshall and windfarm mitigation workstreams.

Action 61: MOD and CAA to meet to discuss overlap of workstreams and discuss how best to work together.

NATS Update

10. MB updated the AMB on progress with Project RM roll-out. 12 developers had signed up to the mitigation and NATS were considering advancing the timetable for the project. NATS were also looking at the technical potential for revising the mitigations' parameters which could potential open up the solution to more projects. It was noted that there were also potential synergies between the Project RM funding model and the Military ATC workstream and MOD and NATS agreed to discuss further.
11. CG questioned how long the window would remain open for developers to engage on Project RM for new sites with NATS. MB stated that the timeframe has been made public but will circulate to the group again.

Action 62: NATS and MOD to discuss the Project RM funding model

Action 63: MB to circulate timeframe for Project RM.

Scottish Windfarm and Aviation Group

12. SC reported on a meeting of the Scottish Windfarm Aviation Group. The Group comprises a broad range of stakeholders representing airports, ASNPs, developers and Government. The main focus of the Group is to look at civil aviation issues although MOD was invited to attend. The Group will look specifically at Scottish issues, but could feed into the Aviation Plan.
13. A key aim of the Group will be to knowledge sharing to encourage progress in taking forward solutions and mitigations. The Group will collect and collate data on all aviation (and radar) objections in Scotland and will consider producing an update to the 2010 report on mitigation in Southern Scotland.

Aviation Plan Update

14. CG informed the AMB that DECC would be developing a refreshed version of the Aviation Plan for publication on the Gov.UK website. This would be supported by a revamp of DECC's web material on aviation and radar issues. The Plan would very much rely on members input and JH would circulate to members once an initial draft was complete. The hope was that this could be discussed and agreed by members at the next AMB.
15. DB noted that the Government would shortly be publishing a red tape challenge on general aviation. Although there will be no specific reference to windfarms, the Government will be seeking to encourage the growth of the general aviation sector. The safeguarding of aerodromes is likely to be a key issue.

Action 64: DECC to circulate a draft of the Aviation Plan to AMB members within 8 weeks.

Any Other Business

16. None.

Next Meeting/Dates of Future Meeting

17. The AMB agreed that the next meeting would coincide with the RUK Conference in Manchester in November and could be held in the margins. The AMB Secretariat would fix the date.

END

Annex A – Open Actions

	Owner	Action	Expected Date	Status
3	RenewableUK	To refresh the Evidence regularly for updates to the Aviation Plan	Annual updates	On-going
44	CAA	KL to draft text for inclusion in the guidance.	23 Jan 2014	Open
51	DECC	JH to progress work on dashboard template.	24 July 2014	Closed
52	DECC/TCE/MOD	DECC, TCE and MOD to meet to discuss air defence mitigation issues.	24 July 2014	Closed
53	NATS	NATS to circulate the Project RM Information Pack to AMB members.	24 July 2014	Closed
54	CAA	KL to circulate an update on the aircraft communications research.	24 July 2014	Closed
55	NATS	NATS to provide details of the projects or MWs affected by aircraft communications objections.	24 July 2014	Closed
56	AMB	AMB to report to DECC on the recommendations in Paper 2014/1.	24 July 2014	Closed
57	CAA	CAA and RUK to engage with AOA on future AMB membership [REVISED].	24 July 2014	Open
58	MOD	MOD to develop ATC milestones for the dashboard.	12 November 2014	Open
59	RUK	RUK to investigate/identify possible sites for inclusion in the single turbine study	12 November 2014	Open
60	MOD and RUK	MOD and RUK to consider comms on MOD workstreams – specifically on the single turbine study.	12 November 2014	Open
61	MOD and CAA	MOD and CAA to meet to discuss overlap of workstreams and discuss how best to work together.	12 November 2014	Open
62	NATS & MOD	NATS and MOD to discuss the Project RM funding model.	12 November 2014	Open
63	NATS	MB to circulate timeframe for Project RM	12 November	Open
64	DECC	DECC to circulate a draft of the Aviation Plan to AMB members within 8 weeks.	18 September 2014	Open