

[DIT joins Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter](#)

The Department for International Trade (DIT) has today joined the Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter, reaffirming its commitment to promoting and supporting gender balance in the sector and delivering on equality commitments outlined in the government's 2018 [Aerospace Sector Deal](#).

The Charter, which was established at the Farnborough Air Show in 2018, is an industry-led initiative which encourages companies to commit to supporting improved gender balance and diversity within the aerospace sector.

Women are under-represented in aviation and aerospace, with only 5% of commercial pilots in the UK being women, as well as a well-recognised shortage of women studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and taking up roles in engineering.

DIT will now join over 200 signatories to the Charter, including Airbus, British Airways, Boeing, NATS, UK Space and International Airlines Group.

In 2019, the UK's aerospace exports totalled £37bn. The sector is spread across the UK with a strong presence in areas such as Belfast, the Midlands, North Wales, South Wales and Scotland.

Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Exports, said of DIT's accession to the Charter:

This government's leadership in championing diversity across all sectors and providing opportunities for everyone is a key pillar of our Global Britain vision, and it's fantastic that the Department for International Trade will be joining this Charter.

Aerospace is an hugely important industry for the UK and will be even more successful if it can access the widest possible talent pool.

Oriel Petry, Director, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing at DIT added:

The Department is proud to support industry efforts to tackle the under-representation of women in the aviation and aerospace sectors.

The UK is world-leading in aerospace manufacturing and innovation, and diversity is crucially important for maintaining this status

and driving continued excellence.

Jacqui Sutton and Sumati Sharma, Co-Chairs of the Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter said:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome DIT to the Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter. The Charter is more important than ever as the industry starts to recover from the pandemic – building back better will only be possible with a diverse, collaborative and forward thinking workforce that is able to drive aerospace and aviation forward to a better and more sustainable future.

Thank you to DIT for pledging their support in achieving better gender balance across our sector.