

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates announces £3m for Yr Egin

Following consideration of a business case from the University of Wales Trinity St David, the Economy Secretary has agreed to allocate £3m of capital funding to support Yr Egin – a project that will see an innovative hub for the Creative Industries being established in Carmarthen.

Speaking about his decision, Ken Skates said:

“Having considered the overall potential economic, cultural and educational benefits of this project I am pleased to announce that the Welsh Government will be investing £3m in 2017/18 to support Yr Egin.

“The investment will help to deliver the infrastructure needed to support the University’s vision of a cluster of creative businesses in Carmarthen.

“This in turn will help to inject new life into the local economy, bring additional and high quality jobs to Carmarthen and enhance Wales’ growing reputation as an enabler of talent, imagination and productivity.

“It also supports our wider commitment to promoting Welsh as a living and vibrant language and will help cement links between academia and creative businesses.

“Our support for Yr Egin will help Carmarthen to capitalise and build on S4C’s decision to locate its headquarters there and will help provide space and networking opportunities for other businesses, the University, students and entrepreneurs.”

The Welsh Government’s £3m investment will support the construction of a new building to provide accommodation for companies, incubator space to develop new businesses in the creative and digital sectors as well as and event space, an open auditorium, and production and edit suites that can be used by both companies and the University.

UK Airspace Policy Consultation

In light of the problems with aircraft noise and nights flights in the constituency I have lobbied Ministers, Heathrow and the National Air Traffic

Services (NATS). Please find below the letter I have written to Department of Transport in response to their consultation on night flights.

I would also strongly encourage residents to contribute to the consultation which ends on 25 May. The link is available here: <http://bit.ly/2m7iTnc>.



THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

UK Airspace Policy Consultation
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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22 February 2017

UK Airspace Policy Consultation: Formal Response

Dear Sirs

I am writing in regard to the UK Airspace Policy Consultation. Please consider this a formal submission to the consultation.

I welcome the proposal that future flight path changes should be subject to a suitable level of oversight by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) when such alterations would substantially effect communities on the ground. I also support the proposal to establish an Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN) to ensure that "noise has been considered and mitigated where possible" when new routes are proposed.

However, I think it is entirely unacceptable that this proposal relates only to future changes. It also only makes reference to improved oversight of flight path changes made by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and not NATS (National Air Traffic Services) which is responsible for directing aircraft across the routes operated by the CAA. NATS has discretion to make unilateral procedural changes to flight path route changes. I believe this is entirely unacceptable and needs to be looked at as part of the consultation.

All easterly flights from Heathrow Airport proceed through the Compton 'gate' which is centred on the town of Wokingham (see the enclosed map). In 2014, without consultation, NATS narrowed the gate from 13 to 11 nautical miles and concentrated easterly flights over Wokingham. NATS contend that this was for safety reasons which is their primary statutory function when planning such routes. However, since this change, noise rates across the flight path have increased significantly. In response, NATS have simply said that noise mitigation does not come within their remit.

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I therefore believe that the improved oversight of flight paths, as suggest in the consultation, should apply to both the CAA and NATS and that decisions by NATS should be subject to the call-in function that it is envisaged will be granted to the Secretary of State. I would also like to see procedural changes made by NATS subject to approval by both the CAA and the ICCAN and public consultation.

As part of this process, I believe that changes previously made without consultation – such as that to the Compton route - should be immediately reversed.

I also believe that the CAA, NATS and the aviation industry should be encouraged to keep more planes away from built up areas, flying more slowly and saving fuel, so they come in to land directly without being in a stack. They should also be encourage to use higher flight paths so planes stay higher for longer, reducing the numbers experiencing noise. Further measures could also be introduced to promote good flying. This might include later dropping of the wheels, less acute turns and aggressive use of power on and the flaps. All these measures save fuel as well as reducing noise.

I welcome the fact that the consultation proposes better processes for the future, but it also needs to take account of decisions that have already been made without due process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ahmad', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CC: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

[The system for school place planning is broken – Angela Rayner](#)

Angela Rayner MP, Labour's Shadow Education Minister,

commenting on the expected rise in families not getting their first choice of school on secondary school offer day, said:

“The system for school place planning is broken.

“The Tories’ unjustified fixation with Free Schools means new schools are opening in areas which do not need them and just last week the NAO reported that the Government are not doing enough to ensure all parents can exercise choice when selecting the right school for their children.

“The Tories need to sort this mess out instead of obsessing over a handful of new grammar schools which will only help a minority of children.”

[News story: Introduction of Insolvency Rules 2016](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016 will be introduced on 6 April 2017.

[News story: Basic Payment Scheme 2017 opens for applications](#)

The 2017 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is now open for applications, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) announced today (1 March 2017).

By applying online through the [Rural Payments service](#), farmers and agents can now quickly check and update existing personal and business details, as well as view and transfer land and entitlements.

RPA Interim Chief Executive Paul Caldwell said:

Last year a record 80% of applications were received online and we hope to increase this figure for 2017.

Help and support in applying for BPS is available every step of the way through our online guidance or at the end of the phone.

Apply now

From today, farmers and agents can complete their declarations and confirm all information before submitting their completed application online.

Anyone who applied online for the Basic Payment Scheme in 2016 will be emailed all they need to apply online for BPS in 2017. Those who did not apply online in 2016 and did not use an agent will soon be sent a paper form and guidance on how to apply online.

Support available from the RPA

Further support is available from RPA this year through useful 'How to' videos. Farmers and agents can find step-by-step guides on transferring land, transferring entitlements and a general overview of how to apply online.

[BPS 2017 video](#)

The application deadline for BPS 2017 is midnight on 15 May 2017.

Further guidance and scheme rules can be found on [GOV.UK](#).