

Today's near-miss with a drone at Heathrow underlines why Government must step up measures – Richard Burden

Richard

Burden MP, Labour's Shadow Aviation Minister, commenting on the recent near-miss between a passenger plane and a drone as it approached Heathrow Airport, said:

"Today's incident underlines why Ministers must get a move on. There were 70 reported near-misses last year and the British Airline Pilots Association believe that the real number is likely to be even higher.

"Last year Labour urged the Government to take action this time last year but Ministers have been far too slow to act. By now they should be further towards making decisions on whether the UK should follow other countries by establishing a compulsory registration scheme and getting systematic geo-fencing in place to physically stop drones getting near airports and other places where they are a danger.

"Labour's approach – highlighted by our amendment to the Government's Vehicle Technology and Aviation Bill this month – is to get a strategy in place to both ensure safety, and protect innovation and the responsible use of drones, linking in with initiatives expected to come out of the European Aviation and Safety Agency shortly."