

Today's warning from NATS is yet another example of the Government's failure – Andy McDonald

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on the warning from the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) over airspace, said:

"The Government's approach to aviation has been to rely on autopilot while they have a chat among themselves. Labour has been pressing for

action for years on aviation safety, drones and airspace modernisation: the Government say they are in listening mode but it seems they're not listening to anyone in the industry.

"Today's warning from NATS is yet another example of the Government's failure to act and comes as uncertainty over Brexit is threatening the UK aviation industry. The Government must listen to what NATS and the industry more broadly are warning and take action to protect and modernise UK airspace.

"The Government must also urgently provide clarity on our post-Brexit relationship with the European agencies that maintain aviation safety standards and through which our air service agreements are secured. If the Government continue to fail to address the challenges facing the aviation industry, the UK's connectivity, competitiveness and ability to trade will be severely undermined."