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General Aviation in the UK

Statement made on 27 April 2021

Statement UIN HCWS941

Statement made by



Robert Courts

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport

Conservative

Witney



Commons

Statement

General Aviation (GA) is often referred to as the ‘grassroots’ of aviation and is the bedrock to our successful and world-leading aviation sector.

It’s worth nearly £4billion to the UK economy, supporting nearly 40,000 jobs. The hundreds of aerodromes up and down the country form an important part of the nation’s transport infrastructure.

General Aviation provides the entry point for careers in aviation and is fundamental to inspiring the next generation of aviation professionals. It supports vital services from law enforcement to life-saving airborne medical and search and rescue teams, and provides future pilots, engineers and other highly skilled professionals a first glimpse of a potential career in aviation.

Therefore, it is only right that the Government’s vision is for the UK to be the best place in the world for General Aviation as a flourishing, wealth generating and job-producing sector of the economy. Our ambitions remain high and we have set out our priorities and how we can achieve these in the Government’s GA Roadmap which I am pleased to announce. The Roadmap sets out our vision and strategic priorities for the sector, alongside our ambitious programme of work that will help us to deliver this. We will work alongside the CAA and our GA stakeholders to achieve these ambitions.

The GA Roadmap is available online at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/979856/general-aviation-roadmap-spring-2021.pdf

I also wish to set out the Government’s view that it is clear from the success of our aviation sector there is a national need to protect and enhance our strategic network of GA airfields – to ensure they continue to prosper and drive the economic growth this country needs and to support levelling up right across the country.

Airfields offer potential for highly skilled, dynamic and innovative businesses to grow and flourish – from manufacturing and