

CAA Environmental and Sustainability Panel minutes

10:30 – 16:30 12 July 2023

Attendees

Ruth Mallors-Ray (RMR)	Panel Chair
Charlotte Clarke (CC)	
Chikage Miyoshi (CM)	
David Lee (DL)	
Alistair Lewis (AL)	
Anil Namdeo (AN)	
Mark Westwood (MW)	
Abigail Grenfell (AG)	CAA
Bronwyn Fraser (BF)	CAA, Panel Secretariat
Barbara Perata-Smith	CAA (item 5)
Stuart Holder	CAA (item 5)
Lizzy Morgan	CAA (item 5)
Callum Holland	CAA (item 5)
Rob Stallard	CAA (item 5)
Ed Weston	CAA (item 5)
Mark Clifton	CAA (item 5)
Gavin Rutter	CAA (item 5)
Nic Stevenson	CAA (items 5-8)
Tomos Joyce (TJ)	CAA (item 7)
John Burton (JB)	CAA (item 7)

Apologies

Martin Hawley (MH)

1. Welcome

RMR welcomed the Panel to its ninth meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Update on CAA Environmental Sustainability Strategy implementation

AG provided an update on the implementation of the [CAA's Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#). This included noting that recruitment for a Net Zero Challenge Lead was underway, and that this will be a key role for the CAA.

AG noted that the CAA has been involved in the Department for Transport/Innovate UK [net zero transatlantic flight fund competition](#) around issuing a certificate to fly. The Panel noted that it welcomes the consideration of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for long haul flight and recognised that there is an element of science and academic research being undertaken in relation to the planned flight through Sheffield University and Imperial College London. However, the Panel noted that it viewed this flight as a missed opportunity to undertake more thorough scientific consideration and scientific data gathering and testing. The Panel also noted there were clear opportunities for international cooperation with other organisations who have capability to do scientific measuring and testing.

3. Update on Board and other recent discussions

RMR updated the Panel on the recent annual Panel update discussions with the CAA Board. This included:

- Noting the Panel's views around the potential for the CAA to undertake international work on the regulatory transformation, including influencing conversations around regulatory reform and the data and scientific evidence that is required.
- Requesting that the CAA keep Board discussions of the CAA's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the Panel separate, as Panel supports delivery of the strategy but does not set priorities or direction for it.
- Reiteration of the Panel's message that CAA senior leadership required a dedicated role that owns and drives the CAA's environmental sustainability agenda.

4. Discussion of Panel member roles

The Panel discussed their dual roles as both Panel members and technical experts. The Panel recognised it as a success of the Panel that they are being approached for specific advice, but were cognisant of the need to ensure that the CAA is getting a rounded view from the Panel as a whole.

The Panel agreed to ensure it was clear that specific technical advice provided to the CAA was not a Panel view, and to be transparent with the Secretariat and rest of the Panel around any advice provided.

5. Evolution of CAA Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Panel engaged in a workshop with members of various CAA teams to inform the the next generation of the CAA's [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#), using scenarios developed by the European Research Establishment in Aeronautics. The Panel provided feedback on the structure and approach of the workshop that will inform how this tool is used more widely across the CAA as the Environmental Sustainability Strategy is evolved.

6. CAA Policy and Innovation Exchange (PIE)

The Panel met with the CAA's PIE to discuss and seek direction from the CAA on areas where the Panel can best help the CAA better understand and prepare itself on sustainability issues.

The Panel and PIE discussed:

- That the Panel provides scientific guidance and evidence, but it is for the CAA to determine what it does that that information and the Panel does not set the CAA's environmental sustainability priorities.

- The potential role of the CAA in signalling its expectations to those in new technology and innovation space that the CAA will ask about environmental performance claims.
- The importance of systems thinking when addressing environmental sustainability, to ensure that any benefits in relation to one environmental impact is not at the cost of backsliding on others.
- Recognition of the risks to regulatory reputations by not using systems thinking, but the importance of articulating that considering wider effects does not mean being responsible for the whole picture.
- The opportunities for the CAA in utilising the broad range of existing government data.

The Panel will come back to the CAA with a detailed plan of work to support the CAA’s understanding of environmental sustainability.

At the PIE session, it was reiterated again by the Chair the need for a role at the “head of” level of the CAA as a minimum. The Panel Chair, also sought for the Board to consider named contacts on the Board who could be go to people on environmental matters. It was also raised that the Panel are never suggesting that safety should be compromised for environmental matters, it is not an either or, however environmental impacts must be brought into considerations by the CAA.

7. CAA reporting on environmental impact of aviation

The CAA sought Panel guidance on the triennial reporting and the opportunities for it to be used to turn the dial on environmental performance. The Panel discussed:

- The opportunity to use existing government data, including the BEIS National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.
- The opportunity to build in public health, which is lacking in the EASA reports.
- The use of systems thinking in the energy transition, including the carbon intensity of how energy has been generated.
- That the topics under consideration could be divided into impacts and mitigation measures.
- Importance of considering who the audience will be, and how the CAA wants the report to be used by the audience.

The CAA agreed to engage with specific Panel members to seek their technical expertise on particular environmental impacts, which would be brought back to the full Panel for sign off.

Action BF to connect TJ with Panel members on technical areas of expertise to support development of the CAA’s environmental reporting functions.

8. Panel teach in – Chika Miyoshi

CM gave a teach in to the Panel on her recent research work in Japan on willingness to pay of SAF.

9. AoB

Nil.

Actions log		
1	BF to connect TJ with Panel members on technical areas of expertise to support development of the CAA’s environmental reporting functions.	BF