



HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL

[STATEMENT]

As part of '*Stage 1 – Define*' of the CAP1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority has completed a Consult Gateway Assessment of Highlands and Islands Enterprise airspace change proposal (ACP).

In order for the CAA to allow an ACP to pass through the Define Gateway, the change sponsor must have:

- The change sponsor must have produced a Statement of Need and the CAA has determined that an airspace change is an appropriate option to consider against the requirements in Appendix A
- The change sponsor must have produced design principles
- The change sponsor must have met with the CAA to discuss the airspace change process (unless a meeting was not required) and demonstrated that it understands what will be required of it
- The change sponsor must have explained to the CAA's satisfaction how the design principles were influenced through stakeholder engagement against the requirements in Appendix D

In our Gateway Assessment, the CAA concluded that the engagement undertaken with stakeholders disregarded all environmental effects, other than those resulting from direct impact to civil operations. Therefore, it is our view that it did not meet the environmental as set out in CAP1616 Appendix B.

The Civil Aviation Authority has informed the change sponsor of this decision and provided detailed feedback. In line with CAP1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider its design principle(s) before resubmitting it for further review by the Civil Aviation Authority at a future Define Gateway.

It is important to note that whether an ACP passes a gateway successfully or not does not predetermine the CAA's later final decision on whether to accept the airspace change proposal. This decision is not an explicit or implicit comment on the merits or otherwise of this ACP. This will come at the decision-making stage (Stage 5).

[END STATEMENT]