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ACP-2021-048 and ACP-2021-007 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Feedback is requested for the September activation of D597 and notification of a proposal for further temporary activations in Aug and Sep 2022.

Dear UK Airspace user,

you are all aware of the MoD's ongoing Airspace Change Proposals for Future Combat Airspace. As a reminder, the MoD seeks to establish a suitable volume of airspace to enable safe delivery of large-scale military collective training exercises to ensure that UK combat forces are suitably prepared to defend UK interests in line with the UK Defence Strategy.

Many of you have already been closely involved in this work to date. For those who have not, and given the unavoidable complexity of the current situation, given that this is the 4th in a suite of ACPs, I will start with a summary of the ACPs to date:

ACP-2020-042: This was a 2-stage trial of an airspace volume suitable for large-scale military collective training and resulted in 2 activations of a temporary danger area in Sep/Oct 2020 and Mar 21.

ACP-2020-026: This is the permanent solution for the Future Combat Airspace. It is currently at stage 2 of the ACP process and is not expected to complete until early 2023. This ACP is **not** the subject of this round of stakeholder engagement.

ACP-2021-007: This is the Interim Solution, designed to bridge the gap between ACP-2020-042 concluding and ACP-2020-026 completing as there is still a requirement to deliver large-scale training during this period. This ACP resulted in 2 separate activations of TDA 597; in accordance with the conditions of the CAP 1616 this 90 day temporary change will expire after Exercise COBRA WARRIOR in March 2022. **Your feedback on the recent activation of D597 is sought as part of this engagement.**

ACP-2021-048: This is a further interim solution to fill the gap between the expiry of ACP-2021-007 and the permanent solution delivered by ACP-2020-026 with an

activation of a TDA on specific dates in Aug and Sep 2022 **and is the subject of this engagement.** TDA 597 has seen one temporary activation and will be activated once more in Mar 22. As this TDA has existing protocols and is familiar to airspace users, it will form the basis of this application. For reference, the supplement for the September 2021 activation is enclosed as a hyperlink.

In the interests of avoiding duplication of effort, this round of engagement is in 2 parts, both covered in this document.

ENGAGEMENT PART 1: ACP-2021-007 ACTIVATION FEEDBACK

The first part of this engagement is a request for your feedback and impact on your operations during the recent activation of TDA597 which was activated between 0900-1200 on 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 17 September and between 1800-2130 on 21 and 23 September and to enable Exercise COBRA WARRIOR. It is anticipated that the increase in civil aviation leads to some productive feedback.

Please answer the following questions and feel free to add any comments not covered specifically by the questions posed.

- **Safety** – did the airspace itself cause any safety issues or raise any safety concerns?
- **Operational Impacts** - What effect did the activation of the airspace have on your operation?
- **Airspace Management** – how well did the notification, activation and management of the airspace work?
- **Air Traffic Management** – Did the handling of military Ex traffic and/or civil traffic in and around TDA 597 cause any issues?
- **Environment and Noise** – Did the activation of TDA 597 cause any environmental or noise concerns?
- **Any other observations** about TDA 597 or ACP-2021-007 in general?

ENGAGEMENT PART 2: ACP-2021-048 FUTURE ACTIVATIONS

The MoD is proposing to activate a temporary danger area for 2 exercises in August and September 2022 prior to the completion of ACP-2020-026. The MoD believes that a further activation of D597 is the safest and most operationally viable option for this activation due to the existence of airspace control measures and protocols as well as familiarity and continuous improvement of this TDA. The periods are:

9, 11, 16, 18, 23, & 25 Aug 22.

5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Sep 22

12, 13, 14, 15, 16 Sep 22
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 Sep 22

Each activation would be for a 3 hour period with exact timings to be confirmed closer to the time. The notification, activation, and management of D597 will be the same as it was for the activations under ACP-2021-007. For reference I have hyperlinked [here](#) and at the end of this letter the supplement detailing the September 2021 activation of D597 which details airspace dimensions and details about how it will be used and managed. **During periods of D597 activation, D323, D513, D613, D412, D712 and Fast Jet Areas North, South and Southeast will be unavailable.**

Please answer the following questions with relation to the future activation of D597:

- **Safety** – Do you think that activation of the airspace will cause any safety issues or raise any safety concerns?
- **Operational Impacts** – Will the activation of the airspace have any operational impact on your operations?
- **Airspace Management** – do you have any concerns about how the airspace will be managed?
- **Air Traffic Management** – Do you have any concerns about how either civil or military traffic will be routed in or around TDA 597?
- **Environment and Noise** – Do you expect any noise or environmental impact caused by *civil* aircraft as a direct result of TDA597 activation?
- Do you have **any other observations** about TDA 597 or ACP-2021-048 in general?

Your responses are requested by 29th October 2021 and we will accept your points in your preferred format. Further targeted engagement will occur following the results of the feedback received. The email address to send returns to is airspace-trial@mod.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Squadron Leader Michael Parker
11 Group Training Enablers
RAF Air Command

Enclosure via hyperlink [EG_SUP_2021_039_en.pdf \(ead-it.com\)](#)

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