



Develop and Assess Gateway Outcome – 24th June 2022

As part of Stage 2 – Develop & Assess of the CAP 1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed a Develop & Assess Gateway Assessment of Clash Gour Holding's airspace change proposal ACP-2021-046 Clash Gour Wind Farm.

In order for the CAA to allow an ACP to pass through the Develop and Assess Gateway;

1. The change sponsor must have produced a comprehensive list of airspace change design options
2. The change sponsor must have engaged with relevant stakeholders to explore those options to the CAA's satisfaction against the requirements in Appendix C;
3. The change sponsor must have produced a design principle evaluation that the CAA has accepted showing how its design options have responded to the design principles;
4. The change sponsor must have produced an Initial options appraisal (phase I);
5. The CAA must have produced and then published an assessment that the options appraisal is satisfactory against the requirements in Appendix E.

At the Gateway assessment for this proposal, the CAA concluded that Criteria were not met for the following reasons;

Environment

Baseline CAP1616 para B27. The Sponsor must provide a 'do nothing' baseline. As per CAP1616 para B27.

Traffic Patterns and Forecast CAP1616 para A1, CAP1616 para B27, CAP 1616a Para 1.9 The sponsor is required to provide the current prevailing air traffic situation, frequency/number of movements and forecast growth (where applicable) as part of the description of its baseline as per CAP1616 Table A1, CAP1616 para B27, B31, B32 and CAP1616a para 1.9.

Noise impact assessment and noise modelling category: CAP1616 para B46; Air Navigation Guidance 2017 para 3.4-3.5 The sponsor is reminded that the Government's noise policy is "to limit, and, where, possible, reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by adverse impacts from aircraft noise". The sponsor is also reminded that the minimum noise assessment required is to see whether the options for change will make a difference to the numbers of residents affected at the LOAEL levels and the distribution of residents affected by higher level. The CAA is therefore unable to accept the qualitative assessment and rationale provided by the sponsor that the noise impacts caused as a result of the airspace change would be minimal because of the low population numbers impacted. The CAA is also unable to determine if a noise modelling assessment under Category E as stated by the sponsor would be appropriate due to the absence of any supporting evidence on the nature of aircraft operations in the vicinity of the airspace impacted. Should the sponsor believe that there will

be no adverse noise impacts to any persons impacted by the airspace change and that it would therefore be disproportionate to conduct a quantified noise modelling assessment, the rationale and supporting evidence must be provided to the CAA for consideration as per CAP 1616 para B26, B35 and B38.

Evidence gaps:The sponsor is required to state how the evidence required for Stage 3 Full Options Appraisal will be collected as per CAP1616 para E12.

Engagement and Consultation

Explanation CAP 1616, Para 128 & Appendix C – Para. C28. The change sponsor is required to set out how decisions they have taken in relation to the design options relate to stakeholders' feedback (CAP 1616, Para 128 & Appendix C – Para. C28). More explanatory detail is required from the change sponsor, including which feedback is being progressed for consideration at later stages of the process and which feedback can be closed down at Stage 2.

The Civil Aviation Authority has informed the change sponsor of this decision. In line with CAP1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider its submission before resubmitting it for further review by the Civil Aviation Authority at a future Develop & Assess 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 approve 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]

