

ACP-2020-024 E-7 WEDGETAIL AEW ORBIT AREAS

Stage 3 'CONSULT' Gateway Outcome – 26 May 2023

[STATEMENT]

As part of Stage 3 of the CAP 1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed a 'Consult' Gateway Assessment of Ministry of Defence airspace change proposal (ACP) ACP-2020-024 E-7 Wedgetail AEW Orbit Areas.

In order for the CAA to sign-off the Consult Gateway:

1. The change sponsor must have produced a consultation strategy
2. The change sponsor must have produced appropriate and effective consultation documents and supporting materials
3. The change sponsor must have produced a Full options appraisal (phase II)
4. The CAA must have published a statement approving the consultation documents and supporting material as satisfactory against the requirements in Appendix C
5. The CAA must have completed and 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 1, 2 and 3 were not met for the following reasons:

Criterion 1: The change sponsor must have produced a consultation strategy

- Lack of explanation whether expected impacts for each stakeholder group are likely to be positive or negative
- Lack of explanation for whether there are any seldom heard groups and if not applicable for this ACP inclusion of reason why
- Lack of explanation regarding approach for communication of modelling data to consultees during consultation.

Criterion 2: The change sponsor must have produced appropriate and effective consultation documents and supporting materials

- Consultation materials are insufficiently clear, accessible, or jargon-free for consultees
- Lack of clarity and consistency in the language used to describe option(s)/areas
- Insufficient detail provided for consultees on advantages of proposal, potential effects, and impact
- Lack of clarity regarding steps to be taken post-consultation
- Citizen Space pages insufficiently prepared to allow for CAA assessment.

Criterion 3: The change sponsor must have produced a Full options appraisal (phase II)

- Description of the current-day baseline: the submission did not adequately articulate the current-day airspace use and management (CAP1616 paragraph B27)
- Inconsistencies in assessment: the submission contained numerous inconsistencies regarding the nature and scale of impacts (CAP1616 paragraph 154).

- Inclusion of all shortlisted options: the Full Options Appraisal did not include an assessment of all of the options that were not rejected in the Initial Options Appraisal (CAP1616 paragraph E23)
- Missing information: the sponsor has not included a 10-year civil traffic forecast, or details on their plans to mitigate negative impacts to access on affected parties.

The CAA has informed the change sponsor of this decision. In line with CAP 1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider its submission before resubmitting it for further review by the CAA at a future 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 - DECIDE).

[END STATEMENT]