



ACP-2021-078 Enabling Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Operations from RAF Fairford

02 December 2024

[STATEMENT]

The Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to implement the EDG218 complex (segments A-D) was approved for notification on 16 February 2024. During the CAA's assessment, the sponsor identified a requirement to activate the EDG218 complex in August 2024 for two operational flights. Before the airspace was activated for the two operational flights in August 2024, the sponsor demonstrated compliance with the conditions of the February 2024 decision, including the provision of suitable airspace arrangements to facilitate entry and exit routes into and out of the EDG218 complex.

In a letter from the CAA published on 6 August an additional condition was placed on sponsor due to impacts identified by Birmingham Airport such that:

1. The sponsor must conduct a Post Implementation Review (PIR) following the two operational flights in August 2024 and submit all necessary information for the PIR to the CAA by 01 October 2024. This PIR is in addition to the standard PIR requirement as documented in the ACP decision dated 16 February 2024.

The CAA has assessed the information provided in the PIR report dated 01 October and published on 8 October 2024 and have concluded that the sponsor should investigate mitigation strategies to resolve the impacts to operations at Birmingham Airport either through operational arrangements or modifications to the airspace design.

The CAA has considered its statutory duties under the Air Navigation Directions 2017 and section 70 of the Transport Act 2000. In summary, the ACP remains approved for notification as per the decision dated 16 February 2024.

However, approval to activate the notified airspace structures by NOTAM for operational flights in future are conditional on the sponsor providing evidence that any mitigation strategies or airspace modifications are agreed between the impacted stakeholders and all original conditions are met and all relevant evidence is submitted and assessed by CAA Airspace Regulation.

[END STATEMENT]