

Safety & Airspace Regulation Group
Airspace, Air Traffic Management and Aerodromes Division



15th September 2026

Ref: ACP-2019-77 - NERL MTMA FASI (Masterplan)

Dear Sponsor,

The Department for Transport (DfT) has now published its Air Navigation Directions (AND) 2026 and Air Navigation Guidance (ANG) 2026 both of which come into effect on 1st October 2026. In light of the changes to Government policy within the ANG 2026 and AND 2026, the CAA has also published a revised airspace change process (CAP1616 version 6) which has an effective date of 1st October 2026.

The DfT has set out the criteria for the applicability of the ANG 2026 when it becomes effective, and how this applies to Airspace Change Proposals (ACPs) which commence after the effective date and those currently in progress (ANG 2026 paragraph 11 refers), with Direction 4 of AND 2026 requiring that procedures and guidance developed by the CAA must reflect Government policies. This letter sets out how the DfT criteria applies to your ACP in accordance with ANG 2026.

However, the ANG 2026 also provides that where the CAA believes it is necessary to support the delivery of an airspace cluster the CAA may require such ACPs to follow a specific version of the ANG and CAP 1616.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your ACP is part of a cluster (see [About the UK Airspace Coordination Service](#)). Recognising the work undertaken by the cluster ACP sponsors to date and to support the cluster delivery, your ACP should continue under ANG 2017 and CAP 1616 version 5.1. You must continue with your co-ordinated approach across the cluster. Requiring all ACPs in each cluster to continue on the same version of CAP 1616 (applying the same version of ANG) reduces the complexity which might otherwise arise if the cluster ACPs were to follow different ANG and CAP1616 versions.

The ANG 2026 also provides that notwithstanding the effective date of the guidance above, sponsors can request to move their ACP to apply another ANG. Should you as the sponsor wish to move to applying ANG 2026 to your ACP, this can only be considered where all sponsors of ACPs in your cluster request to move to the ANG 2026. You should note doing so means, all ACPs in the same cluster would be required to re-start their ACP from the beginning and satisfy all the requirements of CAP 1616 version 6. In that event, the CAA will be able to consider the extent to which previously gathered information might be used to meet some or all of the requirements of information gathering required by CAP 1616 Version 6.

You should continue progressing your proposal under CAP1616 version 5.1 in line with the agreed cluster approach. If you wish to explore a move to CAP1616 version 6, you should discuss with other sponsors of ACPs in your cluster and with NERL as the UKACS provider, and write to the CAA setting out your request.

Civil Aviation Authority

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We intend to publish this letter of the CAA airspace change portal on the 1st October 2026.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal, please contact your account manager.

Yours sincerely

Ben Lippitt
Manager Airspace Regulation