

Background of Farnborough Airport's ACP

At 0700 on Thursday 27th February 2020, the airspace surrounding Farnborough Airport, that had been in place since the airport opened to civil traffic in 2003 changed following approval by the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

Farnborough Airport successfully implemented its Airspace Change Programme (ACP) in February 2020. As with any ACP there can be unforeseen consequences that appear once a change has actually been implemented which could typically be safety, operational, technical, or environmental related. As such, a condition of any ACP is a requirement to carry out a Post Implementation Review (PIR) which would normally commence 12 months after the change has been implemented.

A PIR is a rigorous independent assessment carried out by the CAA which looks at the anticipated impacts and benefits set out in the original ACP proposal and decision to ascertain if these were delivered, and if not, to then determine the most appropriate course of action. The review may also identify any subsequent requirements that could be considered to further modify flight procedures and/or the airspace structure, the need for which can only be determined after a period of operational experience post ACP implementation. The PIR does not set out to re-run the original decision associated with the airspace change.

Due to the impacts of covid-19 on air operations around the globe including in the UK, the CAA took the decision to suspend the planned PIR data collection in August 2020 which was followed by a further deferral in Feb 2021. Following a further review in October 2021 the CAA took the decision to delay the PIR process until Feb 2022.