

Farnborough Airport Airspace Change; Post Implementation Review (PIR)

Update

11th March 2022

After an Airspace Change, the CAA carries out a review of how the airspace change has performed, including whether the anticipated impacts and benefits contained in the original proposal and decision have been delivered.

Since the implementation of Farnborough Airports (FAB) Airspace Change Programme (ACP) in February 2020 the aviation industry was hit hard by the covid-19 pandemic with ATM's and PAX numbers down by over 90% at most UK airports.

Whilst it had been expected that FAB would commence Stage 7 of the PIR process in the latter part of 2020, the significant impact of the COVID-19 related crisis reduced the activity levels of Commercial Air Transport and General Aviation (both GA Business Aviation and IFR/VFR Class G users) to a point where any resulting analysis would not have been suitable for the intended purposes of the PIR, the CAA took the decision to delay UK ACP's which was a view supported by sponsors and GA stakeholders. This review is called a Post Implementation Review (PIR) and is usually conducted in the 12 months following the implementation of an airspace change.

The objectives of the ACP are detailed on page 6 of the CAA's decision document (CAP1678) a copy of which can be found using the following link:

[CAP1678_20180710_TAG_FarnboroughAirspace_Change_Decision-FINAL2_Redacted.pdf \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/CAP1678_20180710_TAG_FarnboroughAirspace_Change_Decision-FINAL2_Redacted.pdf)

What is a PIR?

The PIR is a necessary step in the Airspace Change Process to identify any subsequent requirements to further modify flight procedures, or the airspace structure (as applicable) to ensure compliance with the original CAA decision (Stage 5 of the ACP process).

The PIR is not a review of the decision on the airspace change, and neither is it a re-run of the original decision process.

The PIR will gather data and evidence from both the Change Sponsor and other Stakeholders, which will be assessed by the CAA.

As part of the PIR, Stakeholders are invited to comment on whether the implementation of the Airspace Change has had the impacts that were anticipated when the decision to agree to the change was made by the CAA. Therefore, the online portal to provide feedback will not accept stakeholder feedback until the complete set of data has been published by the change sponsor on the portal.

What data will be reviewed?

Appendix H of the CAA document, CAP1616 sets out, in table H1 the potential post-implementation review data requirements. This list is not exhaustive, and some requirements will not apply in every case.

Where the data illustrates impacts other than those anticipated, the change sponsor will need to provide (and evidence) its analysis of why this is the case.

What are the outcomes of a PIR?

The PIR can lead to two possible outcomes. The CAA may-

- Confirm that the implemented design satisfactorily achieves – within acceptable tolerance limits – the objective and terms of the CAA’s approval, and the change is confirmed; or
- Require modifications to better achieve the objective and terms of the CAA’s approval; once the modifications have been implemented and operated for a period (approximately six months), there are three further possible outcomes:
 - noting that the modifications did not better achieve the objective and terms of the CAA’s approval, the CAA may conclude that the original design was satisfactory, and the original change is confirmed; or
 - noting that the modifications did not better achieve the objective and terms of the CAA’s approval, the CAA may conclude that the original design was not satisfactory, and the original change is not confirmed. In this case, in order to pursue its change, the change sponsor will need to commence a fresh airspace change proposal from Stage 1; or
 - the CAA may conclude that the modifications do better achieve – within acceptable tolerance limits – the objective and terms of the CAA’s approval and so the modified design is confirmed.

What is the overall PIR process and timescales?

The PIR will run for 12 months from the start of data collection (this will be 1st April 2022).

When the data collection is complete and published, the CAA will review the data, and stakeholders will have a 28-day window in which to submit evidence via the CAA portal. After which the CAA will begin their review and then publish their report usually 4 months after (This will be around 1st August 2023).

This process is demonstrated in the below diagram, (reproduced from CAP1616 (March 2021) Page 87).

CAP 1616 Stage 7 Process

