

## Westminster eForum policy conference

### Next steps for the UK drone industry - policy, regulation, investment, innovation and growth

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER  
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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Next steps for the UK's regulatory framework for drones**  
**Sophie O'Sullivan**, Director, Future Safety and Innovation, Civil Aviation Authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for drone sector policy and regulation - UAS regulatory review, implementation of the BVLOS roadmap, and wider system modernisation**  
*regulatory clarity, approvals and oversight | transition from trials to routine BVLOS operations | rollout of BVLOS operational environments and scenarios | application of UKSORA and compliance expectations | implementation of Remote ID and approaches to monitoring and enforcement | allocation of responsibilities across operators, service providers and UTM/CIS providers | interoperability with manned aviation and emerging UAS traffic management services | alignment of airspace modernisation with autonomous and semi-autonomous operations | supporting SMEs and new entrants | developing viable commercial use cases*  
**Andy Sproson**, Co-Founder and Director, AutoSpray Systems  
**Praveen Raju**, Senior Manager, Policy and UAS Ecosystem Development, Wing  
Senior representative, digital aviation  
Senior representative, legal  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Liability, accountability and governance for autonomous and semi-autonomous aviation**  
Senior representative, legal  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Delivery of airspace modernisation - OpenAir, digital integration, and the future operating environment for drones**  
**Andrew Sage**, Director, Safety Transformation, NATS  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Strategic approaches to scaling drone operations - investment, innovation, and market access**  
*continuation of the Future Flight Programme and lessons from evaluation | attracting private investment and approaches to predictability in regulatory pathways | scaling UK-based manufacturing and service provision | regional testbeds, delivery capacity and supply chain development | procurement pathways and SME participation | insurance, risk allocation and confidence in deployment at scale | economic and licensing models for digital infrastructure | cybersecurity, data integrity and privacy expectations | community engagement, transparency and public acceptance | improving trust in routine operations | cross-border interoperability and alignment with international frameworks | positioning the UK relative to EU, US and Asia-Pacific markets | factors influencing decisions on where operators and innovators base activity and investment*  
**Dan Stembridge**, CEO, WholeShip; and Founder, National Drone Hub  
**Rory Daniels**, Head, Emerging Technology and Innovation, techUK  
**Dawn Gillies**, Sustainable Aviation Development Manager, Highland and Islands Transport Partnership  
Senior representative, infrastructure  
Senior representative, investment  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Priorities for supporting innovation, growth, and wider routine drone use across the economy**  
Senior representative, drones  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster eForum