Westminster *e*Forum policy conference
Next steps for the UK drone industry - policy, regulation, investment, innovation and growth
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23rd April 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER *e*FORUM

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
Senior representative, drone operator
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
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, local authority
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 *e*Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster *e*Forum