



## **ENABLING RPAS AND RAF AEROBATIC TEAM OPERATIONS OUT OF RAF WADDINGTON: ACP-2019-18**

[STATEMENT]

31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

As part of 'Stage 2 - Develop & Assess' of the CAP1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed a Develop & Assess Gateway Assessment of the Ministry of Defence airspace change proposal (ACP) titled 'Enabling RPAS and RAF Aerobatic Team Operations out of RAF Waddington.

In order for the CAA to allow an ACP to progress through the Develop & Assess Gateway, the change sponsor must have:

- Produced a comprehensive list of airspace change design options
- Engaged with relevant stakeholders to explore those options to the CAA's satisfaction against the requirements in Appendix C
- Produced a design principle evaluation that the CAA has accepted, showing how its design options have responded to the design principles
- Produced an Initial Options Appraisal (phase I)

In our Gateway Assessment, the CAA was not able to confirm that the design principle evaluation fully established how the design options responded to the design principles. Therefore, it is our view that the ACP did not meet the guidance as set out in CAP1616 Appendix E and the CAA does not approve progress to the next Step.

The CAA has informed the change sponsor of this decision and provided detailed feedback. In line with CAP1616, the change sponsor is now able to reconsider Stage 2 - Develop & Assess before resubmitting it for further review by the CAA at a future Gateway meeting.

It is important to note that whether an ACP progresses through a gateway successfully or not does not predetermine the CAA's later final decision on whether to approve the airspace change proposal. This assessment is not an explicit or implicit comment on the merits or otherwise of this ACP. This will come at the decision-making stage (Stage 5).

[END STATEMENT]