



Department for Transport

Ruth Cadbury MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Our Ref:
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Dear Ruth,

I am writing to inform you that, in accordance with section 23 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 ("the Act"), the Secretary of State has laid before both Houses of Parliament the annual report detailing the number of notices or directions served or given under Sections 11, 12, 13, 13A and 14 of the Act in the twelve-month period between 1 January and 31 December 2024.

The Act confers on the Secretary of State the power to serve or give various notices and directions in connection with the discharge of her aviation security responsibilities, as follows:

Section 11: which enables the Secretary of State to serve a notice on aircraft operators, managers of UK aerodromes, other occupiers of land forming part of an aerodrome or persons permitted to access security restricted areas of an aerodrome for their business purposes to provide such information as may be required by the Secretary of State to exercise her aviation security functions;

Section 12: which enables the Secretary of State to direct aircraft operators and aerodrome managers to ensure that aircraft are searched before flight as specified in the direction and to search any persons or property which are to go or be taken on board such aircraft;

Section 13: which enables the Secretary of State to direct aerodrome managers to secure that searches of aerodromes are carried out by constables or other persons specified in the direction;

Section 13A: which enables the Secretary of State to require persons other than aerodrome managers to secure that searches of land occupied by such persons within or outside an aerodrome are carried out, and to search

persons or property on that land. This section applies, for example, to the providers of in-flight supplies and air cargo agents;

Section 14: which gives the Secretary of State power to give general directions to aircraft operators, the managers of UK aerodromes, and other occupiers of land forming part of an aerodrome or persons permitted access to a security restricted area of an aerodrome for the purposes of a business carried on by him to do such acts as are specified in the direction for the purpose of the overriding aim of protecting civil aviation from acts of unlawful interference or violence; and

Section 21: which applies the Secretary of State's direction making powers under Sections 11, 13, 13A or 14 to air navigation installations.

Section 23 of the Act requires the Secretary of State, on or before 31st January of each year, to lay before each House of Parliament a report stating the number of notices and directions served or given by them under the relevant sections of the Act in the previous calendar year, together with the number of enforcement notices and detention directions served by authorised persons (i.e. DfT officials or Civil Aviation Authority compliance auditors) during that calendar year in respect of non-compliance.

The Act specifies the information which should be set out in the annual report. However, in recent years, many aviation security requirements have been the subject of directions brought together in a Single Consolidated Direction (SCD). The accompanying report includes a table listing each chapter of the SCD, the corresponding section of the Act under which directions in each chapter are given (where relevant) and the corresponding category of person (e.g. aircraft operator, aerodrome manager) to which each chapter relates.

I trust that the attached report provides the required information to Parliament in as clear a manner as possible, whilst reflecting the requirements prescribed by the Act.

Copies of the report have also been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mike Kane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE KANE MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY

Annual return of aviation security notices and directions served by the Secretary of State in 2024

Presented to Parliament under Section 23 of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

Section 23 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 (the ASA) requires the Secretary of State, on or before 31 January of each year, to report to Parliament on the number of notices and directions served or given by them under sections 11, 12, 13, 13A and 14 of the ASA and the number of enforcement notices and detention directions served by authorised persons on aviation entities in the preceding calendar year.

Section 23(2) prescribes the way such information should be reported, breaking down the number of notices or directions served under each section by reference to the type of entity upon which it was served, for example an aircraft operator or aerodrome manager. However, many of the directions served by the Secretary of State under the ASA are done so under a combination of sections, either to individual entities or to all UK directed parties (directed for the purposes of aviation security).

At the end of 2024 there were 1298 UK directed parties (up from 916 in 2023), of which 45 were UK airports (45 in 2023), 43 UK registered aircraft operators (42 in 2023), 343 foreign registered aircraft operators (312 in 2023), 428 regulated agents of air cargo (454 in 2023), 66 regulated suppliers of in-flight supplies (63 in 2023). In addition, 373 Known Consignors of Air Cargo (0 in 2023) became UK directed parties from 1st June 2024. These figures can, and do, change over time as new entities are directed and existing entities merge or go out of business.

According to Department for Transport records, the number of notices and directions served under the specified sections of the ASA between 1 January and 31 December 2024 were as follows:

Notices served under Section 11 of the ASA

No notices were served by the Secretary of State under section 11 during the reporting period.

Directions served under Sections 12, 13, 13A and 14 of the ASA

The latest version of the Single Consolidated Direction (Aviation) 2/2024 (SCD), came into force on 19th November 2024. This version of the SCD consolidated the variation directions that had been issued since the previous consolidation exercise and superseded the Single Consolidated Direction (Aviation) 1/2024, which came into force on 1 June 2024, and its subsequent variations, which were revoked.

The various chapters of the SCD incorporate four broad categories of direction:

- 1) Section 12 ASA directions to aircraft operators to carry out searches
- 2) Section 13 ASA directions to aerodrome managers to carry out searches

- 3) Section 13A ASA directions to others connected with aerodromes to carry out searches
- 4) Section 14 ASA general directions to do anything for the purposes of Part II of ASA (to protect civil aviation from acts of violence), other than searches or the modification of aircraft.

The following table indicates which section of the ASA, and which type of entity, to which each chapter of the SCD relates.

Chapter Number	Aircraft Operators	Aerodrome Managers	Persons Occupying Land etc./Persons permitted to have access to a restricted zone etc.
1		ss.12, 13 and 14	
2		s. 13 (although technically authorising exemptions from the requirement to carry out searches)	
3	s.12		
4		ss. 12,13 and 14	
5	ss.12 and 14		
6	s.12		ss.13A and 14
7	s.12		
8			s.13A
9		s.13	s.13A
10	ss.12 and 14		
11	s.14	s.14	s.14
12	s.14	s.14	s.14

In addition to the **two** SCD Directions – SCD 1/2024 issued on 23rd May 2024 and SCD 2/2024 issued on 7th November 2024, (the SCD is considered to be a single direction on each occasion that it is issued) the following directions were served between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024:

One direction was served on all directed parties under Sections 14(1A)(b) and (3).

Nine directions were served on all individual directed parties under Sections 14(1A), (2) and (3).

One direction was served on all regulated agents under Sections 14(1A)(d),(2) and (3)

Seven directions were served on all and individual aerodrome managers under Sections 13(1).

One separate direction was served on aerodrome managers under Sections 12(1)(a), 13(1), and 14(1A) and (3).

One separate direction was served on aerodrome manager under Sections 12(1)(a), and 14(1A)(b).

One Hundred and Eighty Nine separate directions were served on individual aerodrome managers under Sections 12(1)(a), and 14(1A)(b) and (3).

A total of 211 directions were therefore served or given by the Secretary of State in 2024 under sections 12, 13, 13A and/or 14 of the ASA (35 such directions were served or given in 2023).

Enforcement Notices

No Enforcement Notices were served under the provisions of the ASA during 2024.

Detention Directions

No Detention Directions were given under the provisions of the ASA during 2024.

(No Enforcement Notices or Detention Directions were served or given in 2023).