

Open Letter to the New Aviation Minister, Mike Kane MP

18 July 2024

Dear Mr. Kane,

We are delighted to welcome you as the new Aviation Minister. ARPAS-UK, the UK Drone Association, looks forward to engaging with you and your teams to support our industry and collectively realise the benefits drones can bring to the UK economy and society at large.

**Drones are a professional tool** to capture images and data safely, and increasingly are performing actions such as spraying in agriculture and environmental arenas. Next they will be transporting goods and people. ARPAS-UK is currently focussed on supporting change that will realise substantial benefits in cost savings, safety, productivity and carbon footprint reductions. This is achieved by:

- Helping teams across many industries perform their dull, dangerous, dirty operations in a **safer, smarter, cheaper, efficient way. Using drones removes people from working at height and in hazardous or enclosed environments.**
- Drones capture data with multiple sensors, **they are a vital part of digital transformation**
- Most drones have electric propulsion, **they are part of the CO2 emission-reduction journey.**

**ARPAS-UK is the Non-Profit Trade Association representing the UK drone industry.** Founded in 2013, we encompass a broad segment of the drone ecosystem, and as a membership organisation, we pride ourselves on our collaborative approach, connecting industry stakeholders, operators, agencies, and regulators. Our unique position allows us to contribute to key influential UK industry committees including those led by the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority.


In order to progress and to realise the potential benefits and financial rewards **there are a number of key issues that have not yet been adequately addressed to achieve the GDP and jobs growth** that will help position the UK as a leader on the world stage. **Your leadership will be crucial** in advancing our shared goals and ensuring the safe and innovative integration of drones into society.

**We would like to invite you to join us for a guided tour at DroneX on either September 24 or 25 at London's Excel.** This is the UK's only commercial drone trade show and an excellent early opportunity to meet a broad range of industry players.

Sincerely,



Graham Brown  
Chair  
ARPAS-UK



Anne-Lise Scaillierez  
CEO  
ARPAS-UK

cc: Sofia Stayte DfT, Jenny Ward DfT