

Transport Secretary Announces General Aviation Advocate

- Phil Dunnington, the first balloon pilot to cross the North West Arctic Passage, is announced as the Department for Transport's General Aviation Advocate
- Mr Dunnington will represent the general aviation sector and advise Government on relevant policies from the industry
- Announcement made last week by the Secretary of State Grant Shapps at Cranfield University

Furthering the Government's ambition to develop the aviation industry, the Transport Secretary has announced that the first balloon pilot to cross the North-West Arctic Passage, Phil Dunnington, will become the General Aviation Advocate.

Dunnington, currently a Managing Director of an aviation consultancy for regulatory and accident analysis, will be responsible for championing and shaping the future of the sector. He will represent general aviation on key industry boards and provide relevant independent advice to the Government on key industry issues.

Dunnington will also provide an annual report on "The State of General Aviation" to the Secretary of State.

Aviation Minister, Paul Maynard, said:

"The future of the aviation industry is incredibly exciting. It's innovative, sparks imaginations, provides opportunities and brings together some of the smartest minds from all backgrounds.

"Phil is a longstanding champion of General Aviation and a role model and inspiration to the aviation industry. His career shows just what can be achieved by joining such an exciting sector and his direction and influence is welcomed by all.

"It's vital we do all we can to promote and strengthen this brilliant sector, to solve some of the most pressing challenges and to continue in establishing the UK as a world leader in aviation."

Phil Dunnington, General Aviation Advocate, said:

"For too long the UK's General Aviation industry has been held back from accessing the opportunities in manufacturing, training and operations. Joined-up-thinking is key to this revolution.

"I aim to establish a refreshing regime which ensures that aviation serves all of the community, and encourages the expansion and development of GA UK, working in partnership with the Department for Transport and the general aviation community on airspace, the protection of airfields, the regulatory framework and policies that promote economic growth."