

General Aviation welcomes fuel duty consultation

Members of the General Aviation Strategic Forum (GASF) today welcomed the publication by HMRC of a consultation on the subject of duties on aviation fuel. The decision, by the European Commission, to refuse the UK's request for a continuation of the derogation that enabled aviation fuel duty to be set below the minimum levels set by the EU Energy Directive, threatened GA with a 30 p per litre increase in the price of AVGAS. Since that decision last November, BBGA, AOPA, BHAB and the GA Alliance have been working with HMRC to find an acceptable way forward. The proposals in the Consultation broadly reflect these discussions, particularly the concept of establishing a separate definition for AVGAS allowing a different duty level to be set from leaded motor fuel.

Comments Mark Wilson, BBGA Chief Executive and Chair of the GASF, "often we hear a call for there to be a single voice for GA; our work on this issue shows the GASF is the best way to present the views of GA. This does not mean a simple "single voice" but a much more powerful UNIFIED position from all members of the GA community.". The consultation is not in itself a victory but provides a way forward and Wilson urged all involved to contact their Association to ensure their voice is heard during the consultation, "this shows the value of Associations", he explained, "those who are not members of an Association should give a thought to the impact a 30 p per litre increase in AVGAS would have on their flying or their business- and realise strong Associations are vital to the future of GA."

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