

## **Aviation Health Working Group (AHWG)**

*A paper about the AHWG's remit; working methods (including frequency and observers); and website description.*

What has happened hitherto:

### **AHWG remit**

The Aviation Health Working Group will meet on a regular basis and will work in partnership with other interested parties to give effect to the Government response to the House of Lords Inquiry into Air Travel and Health. Particular responsibilities identified in the response are to:

- Provide a forum for interested Government departments and agencies to consider issues relevant to aviation health;
- Provide an interface with the air transport industry, health experts and other interested parties on aviation health issues of mutual interest;
- Evaluate the need for research into issues related to air travel and health, and consider the role of Government in supporting such research;
- Ensure Ministers are kept informed and receive comprehensive advice on aviation health matters;
- Monitor developments that impinge on the health of those travelling by air.

*(Mission Statement 2001)*

### **Working methods**

To ensure a coherent approach is taken with regard to aviation health issues by the relevant organisations in the public sector, the Government proposes to establish a standing inter-departmental **Aviation Health Working Group**, chaired by DETR, which will meet on a regular basis. By overseeing all aspects of the Government's work on aviation health matters (including follow-up to the consultants' study) and by monitoring future developments, the Group will act as a focal point for examination of relevant issues and be able to provide soundly-based advice to Ministers. Whilst permanent membership of the Group will be confined to representatives of Government departments and the appropriate regulators, it is envisaged that industry representatives and other interested parties will be frequently invited to attend meetings of the Group, and the Group will be able to monitor progress on those recommendations the Committee has addressed to parties outside Government.

*(Response to House of Lords Select Committee 2001)*

## **Website Description**

"The Aviation Health Working Group (AHWG) was established in March 2001 to facilitate a joined-up approach to dealing with aviation health issues, acting as a focal point for the examination of relevant issues and when necessary providing soundly-based advice to Ministers. Members of the Group include DfT, the Department of Health, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Health and Safety Executive, and representatives from the aviation industry, consumer groups and other interested parties such as medical specialists also participate in the bi-monthly meetings."

What we think needs to happen in the future....

### **AHWG remit**

Broadly the same?

### **Working methods**

- 'regular' meetings - if so how regular? or;
- ad-hoc meetings - when something to discuss?
- observers - yes / no

### **Website description**

- What should its content be?
- Should it be more on a FAQ basis
- Need for consistency between DfT, DH, HSE and CAA websites

Next steps (for info)

- Clear through Ministers
- Develop FAQs to be used on department websites.