

KEY TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN APRIL 2021



The only update you need to read! We round up the latest on automated vehicles, aviation, decarbonising transport, space law and more.

Automated Vehicles

Rules on safe use of automated vehicles on GB roads

A Department for Transport consultation proposes amending The Highway Code to create rules on the safe use of automated vehicles on Great Britain's motorways. The consultation was an outcome requirement of the August 2020 call for evidence on ensuring safe use of Automated Lane Keeping Systems. Consultation ends: 28 May 2021.

Aviation

General Aviation Roadmap Spring 2021

A Department for Transport document sets out the government's vision, strategic priorities and forward programme of work to support the general aviation sector.

Coronavirus

Global Travel Taskforce sets out framework to safely reopen international travel

The Global Travel Taskforce set out a framework to chart the safe return of international travel, which could resume from 17 May 2021. Recommendations from the Taskforce include a traffic light system (categorising countries by risk) and the removal of the "permission to travel form".

Decarbonisation

Countdown to Carbon Zero interview series

What will it take for the UK to be carbon zero by 2050? How does the transport sector need to contribute? We talk carbon zero with transport industry experts.

In follow up to the Countdown to Carbon Zero video series, we want to share with you a selection of the interviews conducted in the process of developing the videos. Over the coming months we will be releasing a series of discussions with industry experts, talking to us about the Transport Sector's biggest and most important challenge since the industrial era. Read the first two interviews [here](#).

UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035

The UK's sixth Carbon Budget will incorporate the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions for the first time, to bring the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050. The new target will become enshrined in law by the end of June 2021. The government laid a draft [Carbon Budget Order 2021](#) before Parliament on 21 April to set the carbon budget at the level recommended by the sixth [Carbon Budget](#) report (published in December 2020).

Electric Vehicles

E-scooter trials: guidance for users

Department for Transport guidance for members of the public who are using rental e-scooters as part of trials.

Ports

International Trade Committee report on UK freeports

A report by the International Trade Committee examines the objectives of the government's freeports policy, the package of measures available within the chosen sites, and the overall implementation of the policy. See also our recent article [Freeports and Green Ports: the English and Scottish Approaches](#).

Road Network

Rules on safe use of automated vehicles on GB roads

A Department for Transport consultation proposes amending The Highway Code to create rules on the safe use of automated vehicles on Great Britain's motorways. The consultation was an outcome requirement of the August 2020 call for evidence on ensuring safe use of Automated Lane Keeping Systems. Consultation ends: 28 May 2021.

DVLA Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has published its Strategic Plan 2021 to 2024, which sets out the agency's direction for the next 3 years.

Measures to boost safety on All Lane Running motorways accelerated

The Secretary of State for Transport has announced that no new smart motorways without a hard shoulder will open in England unless radar technology to detect broken-down vehicles is installed. Work to update the Highway Code to provide more guidance about driving on ALR motorways will also be brought forward and is due to be published this year, ahead of schedule.

Shipping

Shipping bodies call on world leaders to bring forward discussions on global market-based measures

Ahead of the US President Joe Biden's Leaders' Summit on Climate on 22 and 23 April, the world's major shipping organisations called on world leaders to urgently examine the role of market-based measures (MBMs) to ensure ambitious decarbonisation targets are met across the entire global shipping industry.

Space

UK space strategy and UK satellite infrastructure: Inquiry - call for evidence

A Science and Technology Committee inquiry into a new UK Space Strategy and UK Satellite Infrastructure seeks views on: the prospects for the UK's global position as a space nation; the strengths and weaknesses of the current UK space sector and research and

innovation base; and the aims and focus of a new UK Space Strategy. Consultation ends: 23 June 2021.

LaunchUK: Promoting and regulating commercial spaceflight from the UK

Information, documents and announcements related to LaunchUK, the UK's commercial spaceflight programme. LaunchUK aims to establish commercial vertical and horizontal small satellite launch from UK spaceports and to support the government's aim of growing the UK's global market share of the space sector to 10% by 2030.

For more information on space law, see our collection of articles:

- [Insurance and liability regime for UK space launch activities](#)
- [Trends in Transport: UK space law is in the making - have your say \(Parts I and II\)](#)
- [Trends in Transport: UK space law is in the making - have your say \(Part III\)](#)



PAUL HIRST

Partner

+44 (0)113 209 2466

[Email](#)



ANNA SWEENEY

Senior Knowledge Lawyer

+ 44 (0)113 209 2015

[Email](#)



MADDIE HOUSE

Research & Knowledge

Analyst

+44 (0)161 934 6594

[Email](#)

Share via [in](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)