



ST HELENA AIRPORT RESPONDS TO AAIB REPORT ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS

St Helena Airport Limited (SHAL) welcomes the publication of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) report into commercial flight operations at St Helena Airport. The report recognises the airport's unique operating environment, including the challenges presented by the island's terrain, wind conditions and associated turbulence, while confirming that the airport continues to meet all required certification standards. It also acknowledges a number of safety improvements already implemented by SHAL.

Safety remains SHAL's highest priority, and the airport is committed to the continuous improvement of aviation safety for all users. SHAL accepts the recommendations directed at the airport and has already taken significant steps to address the matters identified in the investigation and further strengthen operational safety.

The following actions have been completed or are underway now:

- Installing runway distance marker boards to enhance visual cues and improve distance awareness for flight crews during landing operations.
- Installing a new LiDAR system to strengthen weather monitoring and observation capabilities.
- Updating the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) to provide additional information on the proximity of reciprocal touchdown zone markings.
- Routinely monitoring and recording go-around events and associated meteorological conditions to support operational analysis and continuous safety improvement.

SHAL notes the report's discussion regarding the use of Wideawake Airfield as a diversion aerodrome. We would like to acknowledge the longstanding and positive relationship with Ascension Island, particularly in supporting aviation and medical evacuation operations. Over the years, our two islands have worked closely together to facilitate urgent aeromedical missions when required, reflecting a strong spirit of cooperation and partnership. SHAL remains content with the current diversion arrangements in place and will continue to work with Ascension Island to ensure they remain effective, proportionate and aligned with operational needs.

SHAL also wishes to acknowledge Airlink and its flight crews for their professionalism and commitment to safe operations. Through extensive experience, robust safety management systems, specialist training and strong operational discipline, Airlink continues to deliver safe and reliable air services to St Helena despite the challenging conditions that can occasionally be encountered.

The publication of this report provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to further enhance aviation safety and operational resilience across the South Atlantic, and SHAL looks forward to continuing collaboration with the AAIB, ASSI, Department for Transport, Ministry of Defence, Ascension Island authorities and airline operators.

St Helena Airport remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety while supporting dependable air connectivity for the people of St Helena and all who rely on access to the island.

#StHelena #StHelenaAirport#Safety

St Helena Airport

17 July 2026