Matt taylor
Chief Information Officer
InformationServices Department
Civil Aviation Authority

UK Civil Aviation Authority

Tell us a bit about your current role?

I'm responsible for all aspects of IT delivery at the CAA – equipping the authority with the equipment and the systems required to do their roles effectively.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role?

I'm lucky to have a fantastic team behind me, and seeing them deliver new systems and solutions or respond to issues and challenges with such tireless enthusiasm and commitment is amazing. Being part of an organisation with such an inspiring mission and being to help make that a reality is always hugely rewarding.

How did you get into this role, can you tell us about your career history, training and qualifications?

I started out in a very non-STEM way, with a PhD in Philosophy and had started out on an academic career, before changing tack entirely and following a passion for technology. I've had a number of different jobs in IT over the last 23 years, from software developer to project manager, for a range of different kinds of organisations and industries. I joined the IT department at the CAA 10 years ago, and took over as CIO in 2018.

What advice would you give to someone looking to progress and develop in this area of aviation?

Many people have the right aptitude, attitude and interests for a great career in IT without necessarily having a formal technology education. If that's you, don't be put off, there are many ways in and good employers will always hire for potential.

How can a young person get involved in a career in a STEM or aviation subject?

There are so many routes you can take, so don't get too focused on one path or industry, or get discouraged if plan A doesn't work out. You might strike it lucky with a large organisations with a big graduate programme, or get a foot in the door with a small firm where you'll get a very different range of experience. You might get straight into the industry you dream of working in, or find your way there years later having built up your experience somewhere else. You can be successful whatever first steps you take focussing on Science and Maths at school will position you nicely for the next step.

STEM
OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION