Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Institute for Aviation Research
Other names charity is known by	IAR
Registered charity number (if any)	1161611
Charity's principal address	Roxhill Manor Farm
	Roxhill Road
	Marston Moretaine, BEDFORD
	Postcode MK43 0QG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Zheng Lei	Chair	11 May 2015 - Present	
2	Dr John F O'Connell		11 March 2017 - Present	
3	Dr Cheung Kwok Law		11 May 2015 - Present	
4	Ms Wei Hua Jiang		11 May 2015 - Present	
5				
6				
7				
8				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Three of the trustees are founding trustees of the Institute, while the fourth trustee was elected by the other trustees in accordance with the Constitution.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The trustees are collectively responsible for the governance, strategic direction and financial oversight of the Institute.

The trustees periodically review the Institute's activities, financial position and major risks, and consider appropriate measures to ensure that its activities remain consistent with its charitable objectives.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance education, for the benefit of the public, by promotion, on a non-political basis, of research into aviation policy and air transport management and to improve public understanding of aviation-related issues, in any part of the world, through independent and rigorous research.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and carrying out the Institute's activities.

During the financial year, the Institute continued to advance education and knowledge in aviation through independent research, dissemination of research findings, professional knowledge exchange and expert engagement on aviation policy and air transport development. Research relevant to aviation policy, air transport management and related aviation issues was disseminated through academic publications and presentations at academic and professional events.

The Institute also supported professional knowledge exchange through keynote presentations, workshops and expert contributions to discussions on aviation development, airline and airport strategy, network connectivity and airport hub planning. These activities provided opportunities to share research findings and professional knowledge with researchers, aviation practitioners, airport and airline executives and other stakeholders.

During the year, the Institute also commenced discussions with a publishing house in China regarding the possible translation into Chinese of selected English-language aviation books, particularly in the fields of aviation management and aviation safety. The proposed initiative is intended to broaden access to high-quality international aviation knowledge and educational materials for Chinese-speaking students, researchers and aviation professionals.

Through these activities, the Institute sought to promote independent and rigorous aviation research, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and improve understanding of aviation-related issues for the benefit of the wider aviation community and the public.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Institute's activities during the year were supported substantially through the professional and voluntary contributions of its trustees and associates.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the year, the Institute continued to contribute to aviation research, professional knowledge exchange and policy-related discussion in areas consistent with its charitable objectives.

In October 2025, the Institute played a leading role in the Ninth China Low-Cost Aviation Summit held in Wuhan and hosted by Wuhan Tianhe International Airport. The Summit brought together representatives from more than 30 Chinese and international airlines and attracted over 200 participants. As part of the Summit, the Institute's Chair developed and chaired a high-level closed-door workshop involving senior executives from Chinese and international low-cost airlines and airports. The workshop provided a focused forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience on low-cost aviation development, airport-airline cooperation, network connectivity and hub development. The Institute's Chair also delivered a keynote address at the Summit.

During the reporting period, the Institute also contributed expert analysis and views on aviation hub development in China, including policy and strategic issues relating to airport connectivity, airline network development, and hub planning. These contributions supported informed professional discussion and evidence-based decision-making in the aviation sector.

Taken together, these activities contributed to the Institute's objectives of advancing education, promoting independent and rigorous aviation research and improving understanding of aviation-related issues among researchers, aviation professionals and other stakeholders.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The trustees' policy is to maintain an appropriate level of unrestricted reserves to meet essential administrative costs and short-term commitments associated with the Institute's charitable activities. Given the current low level of reserves, the trustees intend to seek appropriate sources of income as the Institute increases its activities and will keep the level of reserves under review.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	N.A.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	The Institute received no income during the financial year. The trustees continued to exercise close control over expenditure during the year. As the Institute seeks to increase its charitable activities in the next financial year, the trustees will explore appropriate sources of income to support those activities.

Section F Other optional information

During the next financial year, the trustees intend to increase the Institute's level of research, educational and knowledge-exchange activity while maintaining careful control over costs.

A priority will be to progress discussions with publishing partners concerning the translation and dissemination of selected English-language aviation books in Chinese, particularly in the fields of aviation management and aviation safety.

The Institute also intends to develop seminars, workshops and other educational and professional knowledge-exchange activities, and to strengthen engagement with universities, researchers, airlines, airports and other aviation organisations where this can further the Institute's charitable objectives.

The trustees will also explore appropriate opportunities to broaden the Institute's income base, including research funding, donations, sponsorship and income associated with educational and knowledge-dissemination activities, where these are consistent with the Institute's charitable purposes. New activities will be developed on a measured basis and subject to appropriate funding and resources.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		

Full name(s)	Zheng Lei	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date	19/09/2026