Dr. Miles Elsden, Chief Scientist and Acting Chief Scientific Advisor
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Miles Elsden joined the UK Department for Transport in May 2012. Previously he has worked at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), which is part of the UK Ministry of Defence, and most recently for the Government Office for Science (the office of the Government’s Chief Scientific Advisor) where he was head of Civil Contingencies, Defence and Security.

Miles has a background in applied mathematics and computational fluid mechanics and spent a number of years as an academic in the UK, France and Germany before joining a software development company in Brussels. He is a Chartered Mathematician, Chartered Scientist and Chartered IT Professional, a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and an Honorary Professor at University College London. He also holds an MBA from Cranfield University.

UK Department for Transport
The Department for Transport works with its agencies and partners to support the transport network that helps the UK’s businesses and gets people and goods travelling around the country. The Department plans and invests in transport infrastructure to keep the UK on the move.

The Department for Transport is responsible for:
- providing policy, guidance, and funding to English local authorities to help them run and maintain road networks, improve passenger and freight travel, and develop new major transport schemes;
- investing in, maintaining and operating around 4,300 miles of the motorway and trunk road network in England through the Highways Agency (now Highways England);
- setting strategic direction for the rail industry in England and Wales – funding investment in infrastructure through Network Rail, awarding and managing rail franchises, and regulating rail fares;
- improving English bus services through funding and regulation;
- working to make roads less congested and polluted by promoting lower carbon transport, including cycling and walking;
- encouraging the use of new technology such as smart ticketing and low carbon vehicles;
- maintaining high standards of safety and security in transport;
- supporting the maritime sector by producing the overall strategy and planning policy for ports in England and Wales; and
- setting national aviation policy, working with airlines, airports, the Civil Aviation Authority and NATS (the UK’s air traffic service).

More information can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/about