Week commencing 16 November 2026

ClearPath Partnership

COVERAGE
2 – 15 November 2026

AUDIENCE
Security directors · C-UAS programme leads · airport and critical site operators

HANDLING
Internal use — not for onward distribution

IF YOU JUST REMEMBER ONE THING FROM THIS BRIEFING…

NATO fighters twice failed to bring down a slow drone over Lithuania — the cheapest class of threat remains the hardest for expensive interceptors to kill.

Jets made two unsuccessful attempts near Biržai overnight on 10–11 November; one missile missed and fell to the ground. Four drones and dozens of suspected balloons crossed from Belarus that night. Ask one question: does your own layered defence have a cheap, reliable kill option at the bottom of the threat stack, or only an expensive one at the top?

FORTNIGHT IN REVIEW

Incidents and sector activity

PRIORITY

10–11 NOV

NATO fighters twice fail to bring down a drone over Lithuania

Jets made two failed attempts against a drone near Biržai in northern Lithuania overnight; one missile missed and fell to the ground. Lithuania's president said four drones and dozens of suspected balloons crossed from Belarus, and warned the pattern is likely to recur while the war continues.

So what: even NATO airpower struggles to reliably kill cheap, slow targets. Confirm your own layered defence does not depend solely on one expensive, high-end effector.

PRIORITY

2–3 NOV

Moscow's airports close again as drone disruption runs into November

Two of Moscow's four main airports fully suspended flights and two switched to restricted operations overnight, extending the repeated multi-night closures seen through October. Russian officials' drone-destruction figures remain unverified here.

So what: resilience against one incursion is not resilience against a sustained campaign. Test your plan across consecutive nights, not a single event.

PRIORITY

2 NOV

Nine years for drone operator behind 226 prison-smuggling flights

Kamal Miah was sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court for using a drone to smuggle drugs into HMP Lindholme, part of a wider conspiracy the judge said involved 226 drone flights into prisons, including London sites, between April 2025 and April 2026.

So what: this is the scale of organised, repeat drone logistics against one site type. The same persistence applies to any protected perimeter.

WATCH

ONGOING

Armed Forces Bill still stalled in the Lords, drone powers unmoved

The Bill, which would give personnel new powers to disrupt or down drones near defence sites, remains at report stage after government defeats in October on unrelated clauses covering service housing and courts martial. No further date or drone-specific amendment has been confirmed this fortnight.

So what: the legal gap between detecting a drone and lawfully acting on it at a UK base persists. Confirm who may act at your own boundary meanwhile.

ACTION TABLE

Developments to track this fortnight

DEVELOPMENT	TYPE	WHY IT MATTERS FOR A PROTECTED SITE	ACT BY / WATCH
Failed Lithuania interception, 10–11 Nov	Incident	Fast jets are a poor match for slow, cheap drones.	Watch: pattern
Moscow airport closures, 2–3 Nov	Incident	Saturation-attack resilience gap persists into November.	Watch: pattern
Prison drone-smuggling sentencing	Incident	Shows the scale of organised, repeat drone logistics against one site type.	Watch: sentencing pattern
Armed Forces Bill, Lords report stage	Regulation	Sets the UK's legal basis for troops to engage drones near bases.	Watch: next reading
PANOPTES Stage 2 outcome	Procurement	Will shape MOD's preferred detect-to-defeat architecture.	Watch: outcome

Drone-count and disruption figures are as reported by named sources; Russian official figures are not independently verified here.

REGULATORY AND SECTOR WATCH

What changed, and what is coming

In force now

- UK Flyer ID and Direct Remote ID requirements for drones over 100g remain in force since 1 January 2026.
- Belgium's National Airspace Security Centre continues coordinating national drone detection.

Approaching

- Armed Forces Bill drone-disruption powers await further Lords stages; no Royal Assent date yet.
- PANOPTES Stage 2 outcome and further MOD procurement decisions expected in the coming weeks.

Standing watch — SAPIENT NATO ratification. BSI Flex 335's path to a formal NATO STANAG, needing 14-nation approval, remains unresolved. No change this fortnight.

RECOMMENDED

Three things to do before the next edition

- Check whether your layered defence has a cheap, reliable bottom-tier kill option, not only a high-end one.
- Track the Armed Forces Bill's next Lords stage and when shoot-down powers would reach your own boundary.
- Review perimeter security against the scale of repeat, organised drone-smuggling shown by the Miah sentencing.

OUTLOOK — NEXT FORTNIGHT

We assess it is likely that further Baltic drone or balloon incursions test NATO's intercept capability before the next edition. It is a realistic possibility that the Armed Forces Bill reaches its next Lords stage, and a realistic possibility that the PANOPTES Stage 2 outcome is announced, before 30 November.

NEXT EDITION

Monday 30 November 2026. Send additions, corrections or sector intelligence to your ClearPath engagement lead.

ClearPath Partnership