

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The purpose of GATCOM's newsletter is to help GATCOM member organisations and other interested parties keep up to date with the latest news articles, publications and innovations relating to Gatwick Airport and the wider aviation industry. It is not intended to promote or scrutinise any news articles, press releases or publications referenced.

05 MARCH 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

MHCLG Consultation: National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system

Closing date: 10/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

Scottish Government Consultation: Delivering Scotland's Air Departure Tax

Closing date: 26/03/2026

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/delivering-scotlands-air-departure-tax/documents/>

DfT call for evidence: SAF Mandate: crop-derived sustainable aviation fuel

Closing date: 16/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/saf-mandate-crop-derived-sustainable-aviation-fuel>

DfT Consultation: SAF revenue certainty mechanism: indicative heads of terms and contract allocation

Closing date: 03/04/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/saf-revenue-certainty-mechanism-indicative-heads-of-terms-and-contract-allocation>

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Analysis: Government Admits To A “Small Error” In The Aviation Modelling In The Carbon Budget And Growth Delivery Plan

AEF – 03/03/2026

<https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/03/03/analysis-gov-error-aviation-modelling-uk/>

How Can Predictive Operations Transform Airport Management?

Airport Industry News – 04/03/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/how-can-predictive-operations-transform-airport-management/>



GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Planning for Growth Across London's Airport Network

Airport Industry News – 02/03/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/planning-for-growth-across-londons-airport-network/>

Ballet in the sky — planning, resilience and what lies ahead for summer 2026

NATS blog – 24/02/2026

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES & CONSULTATIONS

Communities and stakeholders invited to have their say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change Proposal

Closing date: 28/04/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/communities-and-stakeholders-invited-to-have-their-say-on-london-gatwick-s-route-4-airspace-change-proposal-3f346-40f32.html>

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

British Airways to deploy Boeing 787-10s at London Gatwick replacing ageing 777-200 fleet

Aerospace Global News – 01/03/2026

<https://aerospaceglobalnews.com/news/british-airways-deploy-boeing-787-10s-london-gatwick/>

General Headlines

What's happening in the Middle East affects UK aviation too

NATS – 03/03/2026

<https://nats.aero/blog/2026/03/whats-happening-in-the-middle-east-affects-uk-aviation-too/>

Passenger news

Best airlines for 2026: Passengers told us about more than 9,500 flights with British Airways, easyJet, Ryanair, Tui, Jet2 and many other carriers

Which? – 27/02/2026

https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/airlines/article/best-and-worst-airlines-a5EhC8N851et?source_code=X21AAA&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_content=generic&gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21378227965&gbraid=0AAAAADoAS41AMrbBLkxHW

[_QXgwkOaH1xq&gclid=CjwKCAiAzZ_NBhAEEiwAMtqKy8MPWZpTdkKfb3PiWuk8Y-W21C89fzB9Kplp_Mz2VdLyZYR-yZ5K4BoCiioQAvD_BwE](https://www.gatwickairport.com/news/2026/03/03/government-consultation-on-biomass-sustainability/)

Environmental news

Using plants and crops for fuel feedstocks is inefficient and risks indirect land-use change, argues AEF

AEF – 03/03/2026

<https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/03/03/government-consultation-on-biomass-sustainability/>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Belfast International

Drop-off charges to increase at Belfast airport

BBC – 03/03/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyg10y7ewgo>

Why Belfast International Airport Shines for 2026 Travel

The Traveler – 28/02/2026

<https://www.thetraveler.org/why-belfast-international-airport-shines-for-2026-travel/>

Birmingham

New routes and extra flights help land record year for passenger travel at Birmingham Airport

Express & Star – 25/02/2026

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2026/02/25/new-routes-and-extra-flights-help-land-record-year-for-passenger-travel-at-birmingham-airport/>

Birmingham airport investment will enhance cargo capability

Metro – 03/03/2026

<https://metro.global/2026/03/03/birmingham-airport-investment-will-enhance-cargo-capability/>

Bristol

Bristol Airport Announces Parking Action Plan Agreement

UKInbound – 26/02/2026

<https://www.ukinbound.org/member-news/bristol-airport-announces-parking-action-plan-agreement/>

Bristol Airport awards £30m contract for major terminal extension

International Airport Review – 04/03/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/303196/bristol-airport-awards-30m-contract-for-major-terminal-extension/>

Bristol Airport's £30m expansion to almost double number of shops and restaurants

Britol Post – 04/03/2026

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-airports-30m-expansion-almost-10844275>

East Midlands

Women spread their wings at East Midlands Airport

East Midlands Airport – 04/03/2026

<https://mediacentre.eastmidlandsairport.com/women-spread-their-wings-at-east-midlands-airport/>

Aurrigo secures ground handling licence at East Midlands Airport

Share Cast – 04/03/2026

<https://www.sharecast.com/news/aim-bulletin/aurrigo-secures-ground-handling-licence-at-east-midlands-airport--21910772.html>

Glasgow

Anas Sarwar would revive Glasgow airport rail link project if Labour wins Holyrood election

Daily Record – 02/03/2026

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/anas-sarwar-would-revive-glasgow-36798979>

Glasgow Prestwick

Scottish Government ask if aircraft used in Iran operations stopped at Glasgow Prestwick

Glasgow Live – 03/03/2026

<https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-news/scottish-government-ask-aircraft-used-33524882>

London City

London City Airport sets out plan to reach 9 million passengers: London City Airport outlines growth strategy to 9 million passengers as Aviation Minister visits, highlighting sustainable aircraft, job creation and enhanced connectivity for east London

International Airport Review – 02/03/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/303129/london-city-airport-sets-out-plan-to-reach-9-million-passengers/>

London City Airport calls for views on new landing approach

London Now – 04/03/2026

<https://www.london-now.co.uk/news/25904013.london-city-airport-calls-views-new-landing-approach/>

London Heathrow

‘Heathrow’s third runway should have been built 10 years ago’ says airport boss

Independent – 25/02/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/heathrow-airport-third-runway-ceo-b2927122.html>

Heathrow third runway plans face ‘delusion or deception’ warning over costs and timeline

Business Matters Magazine – 04/03/2026

<https://bmmagazine.co.uk/news/heathrow-third-runway-delusion-deception-report-expansion-costs/>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Heathrow's growing debt makes third runway plan even more absurd, say opponents: Critics say expanding UK's 'most indebted piece of infrastructure' senseless

Independent – 25/02/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/heathrow-airport-debt-third-runway-expansion-b2927673.html>

Heathrow's annual earnings drop by more than a third

Ham & High – 25/02/2026

<https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/national/25884440.heathrows-annual-earnings-drop-third/>

London Heathrow sees retail concession revenue fall by -2.3% in 2025

TR Business – 02/03/2026

<https://www.trbusiness.com/regional-news/europe/london-heathrow-sees-retail-concession-revenue-fall-by-2-3-in-2025/276203>

MoD warns of bird strikes threat to London planes from third runway at Heathrow: New waterways close to the airport in west London could attract more birds which may pose a threat to aviation, says the Ministry of Defence

The Standard – 24/02/2026

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/heathrow-third-runway-planes-flights-bird-strikes-defence-b1272360.html>

Heathrow appoints Turner & Townsend and AtkinsRéalis to support expansion

New Civil Engineer – 03/03/2026

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/heathrow-appoints-turner-townsend-and-atkinsrealis-to-support-expansion-03-03-2026/>

Heathrow selects AIRHART platform as its new digital backbone for AI-driven operations

Future Travel Experience – 02/03/2026

<https://www.futuretravelexperience.com/2026/03/heathrow-selects-airhart-platform-as-its-new-digital-backbone-for-ai-driven-operations/>

The abandoned mansion next to Heathrow Airport that used to be home to a king

Metro – 01/03/2026

<https://metro.co.uk/2026/03/01/abandoned-mansion-next-heathrow-airport-used-home-a-king-2-27169842/?ito=newsnow-feed>

United Kingdom Overtakes Turkey, Germany, Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Austria And More Countries In Europe As London Heathrow Clinches Busiest Airport Title With Over Eighty-Four Million Passengers, Cementing Itself As The Heart Of European Aviation Supremacy

Travel & Tour World – 03/03/2026

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/united-kingdom-overtakes-turkey-germany-netherlands-france-switzerland-austria-and-more-countries-in-europe-as-london-heathrow-clinches-busiest-airport-title-with-over-eighty-four-million-passeng/>

London Luton

Luton Airport Launches Game-Changing Initiative to Shape the Future of Aviation Careers

Travel and Tour World – 04/03/2026

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/luton-airport-launches-game-changing-initiative-to-shape-the-future-of-aviation-careers/>

London Southend

Southend Airport new new pick-up and drop-off introduced

Echo – 03/03/2026

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/25902355.southend-airport-new-new-pick-up-drop-off-introduced/>

Manchester

Manchester Airport Cracks Down on Drivers Waiting on Avro Way

DM News – 04/03/2026

<https://dmnews.co.uk/manchester-airport-cracks-down-on-drivers-waiting-on-avro-way/>

Airport scraps barriers in multi-storey car park

BBC – 26/02/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0rj0d247v2o>



GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Southampton

Why guide dog puppies are being trained at an airport

BBC – 26/02/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3wl5xnvzp4o>

Teesside

Teesside International Airport bags multimillion-pound cargo flights to China deal

Teesside Live – 03/03/2026

<https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/teesside-airport-freight-deal-china-33516832>