

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.

18 DECEMBER 2025

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

DfT and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero consultation: UK Emissions Trading Scheme: Regional aviation connectivity - seeking views on the impact of the end of aviation free allocation in 2026 on regional connectivity

Closing date: 19/12/ 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-emissions-trading-scheme-regional-aviation-connectivity>

CAA consultation: CAA Statutory Charges Consultation 2026 – 2027

Closing date – 22/12/2025

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/finance/caa-statutory-charges-consultation-26-27/>

MHCLG consultation: Home buying and selling reform [*Questions 7 and 8 give scope to comment on land use planning, aviation noise, and air quality*]

Closing date: 29/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/home-buying-and-selling-reform/home-buying-and-selling-reform>

CAA consultation: Airspace modernisation: Consultation on draft guidance for the UK Airspace Design and Coordination Services

Closing date: 12/01/2026

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/draft-ukads-ukacs-guidance/>

CAA consultation: Airspace modernisation: Consultation on the requirements for a UK Airspace Coordination Service and associated guidance

Closing date: 12/01/2026

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/draft-ukacs-requirements/>

Changes to the air navigation directions and air navigation guidance

Closing date: 20/01/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-air-navigation-directions-and-air-navigation-guidance>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

CAP3195: Working Paper on regulatory models

Closing date: 20/01/2025

<https://www.caa.co.uk/our-work/publications/documents/content/cap3195/>

ACOG consultation: Scottish Airspace Modernisation

Closing date: 25/01/2026

<https://scottishairspacemodernisation.co.uk>

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Aviation statistics: data tables (AVI): Data about UK and global air traffic, air accidents and incidents, and air passengers' experiences of security screening, produced by Department for Transport

DfT update – 17/12/2025

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/aviation-statistics-data-tables-avi?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d98f8d4b-0394-435f-bfc3-d20d6797bf1f&utm_content=daily

Monitoring and evaluation framework for aviation. This monitoring and evaluation framework shows how decarbonisation activities in UK aviation could contribute to economy-wide achievement of net zero by 2050

DfT – 16/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitoring-and-evaluation-framework-for-aviation>

How Motional Digital Twins improve flow, efficiency and non-aero performance in airports

International Airport Review – 17/12/2025

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/article/300587/how-motional-digital-twins-improve-flow-efficiency-and-non-aero-performance-in-airports/>

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES

London Gatwick offers passengers record number of destinations ahead of big Christmas getaway

18/12/2025

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-offers-passengers-record-number-of-destinations-ahead-of-big-christmas-getaway-1924e-40f32.html>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

London Gatwick supports Uzbekistan tourism surge with new Qanot Sharq flights

16/12/2025

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-supports-uzbekistan-tourism-surge-with-new-qanot-sharq-flights-1389e-40f32.html>

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

Campaigners win date for legal challenge against Gatwick expansion

Travel Weekly – 11/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/campaigners-win-date-for-legal-challenge-against-gatwick-expansion>

Gatwick Airport raises drop-off fee to £10, blaming jump in business rates

ITV – 12/12/2025

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2025-12-12/gatwick-blames-jump-in-business-rates-for-raising-drop-off-fee-to-10>

Gatwick airport will be hit by rail closures for three weekends at the start of 2026

Time Out – 17/12/2025

<https://www.timeout.com/london/news/gatwick-airport-will-be-hit-by-rail-closures-for-three-weekends-at-the-start-of-2026-121725>

New central Asia route introduced from Gatwick amid heightened demand

Travel Weekly – 16/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/new-central-asia-route-introduced-from-gatwick-amid-heightened-demand>

General Headlines

Travel regulator issues warning ahead of UK airports' busiest day

Manchester Evening News – 17/12/2025

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/uk-news/trave-regulator-issues-warning-ahead-33071876>

Airport expansion needs pilots, not just runways

Politics Home – 15/12/2025

<https://www.politicshome.com/members/article/airport-expansion-needs-pilots-runways>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Christmas travel chaos: All the European airport strikes to expect in December

Euro News – 16/12/2025

<https://www.euronews.com/travel/2025/12/18/christmas-travel-chaos-all-the-european-airport-strikes-to-expect-in-december>

Young people encouraged to Reach for the Sky as government announces £750,000 to create the next generation of aviators. Funding ensures young people from all backgrounds can learn about the varied, highly skilled jobs and future opportunities in aviation across the UK

DfT – 12/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-encouraged-to-reach-for-the-sky-as-government-announces-750000-to-create-the-next-generation-of-aviators>

Passenger news

Watchdog calls out budget airlines over cabin bag pricing tactics

Independent – 12/12/2025

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/budget-airlines-ryanair-easyjet-flight-cabin-bag-pricing-b2883192.html>

Environmental news

Sustainable Aviation Fuel: Expert insight into a viable path to Net-Zero

CILT – 15/12/2025

<https://ciltuk.org.uk/News/Latest-News/ArtMID/6887/ArticleID/38299/Sustainable-Aviation-Fuel-Expert-insight-into-a-viable-path-to-Net-Zero>

Analysing the impact of operational efficiencies on aviation. A report on how operational efficiency measures can reduce fuel consumption and lower aircraft CO2 emissions

DfT – 16/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysing-the-impact-of-operational-efficiencies-on-aviation>

Operational efficiencies for aviation decarbonisation. This report identifies interventions to improve operational efficiencies that could deliver carbon savings in aviation in the near to medium term

DfT – 16/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/operational-efficiencies-for-aviation-decarbonisation>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Future research and development for aviation decarbonisation. A summary of research related to decarbonising aviation with recommendations on areas industry, academia and government should prioritise for further activity

DfT – 16/12/2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-research-and-development-for-aviation-decarbonisation>

Tui flights monitored for contrail formation

Travel Weekly – 11/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/tui-flights-monitored-for-contrail-formation>

Jet2 achieves improved climate action rating

Travel Weekly – 11 /12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/jet2-achieves-improved-climate-action-rating>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Aberdeen

Over 74,000 passengers expected at Aberdeen Airport over festive travel season

Aberdeen Live – 17/12/2025

<https://www.aberdeenlive.news/news/aberdeen-news/over-74000-passengers-expected-aberdeen-10709074>

Belfast City

Trains between Belfast city centre and airport 'every 20 minutes' under new transport proposal

Belfast Live – 17/12/2025

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/trains-between-belfast-city-centre-33074959>

Belfast City Airport Set For 10,000 Passengers Each Day During Festive Period

ITTN – 18/12/2025

<https://ittn.ie/travel-news/belfast-city-airport-set-for-10000-passengers-each-day-during-festive-period/>

Birmingham

Birmingham Airport's £76 million annual investment in AI and seamless journeys

International Airport Review – 12/12/2025

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/video/301091/birmingham-airports-76-million-annual-investment-in-ai-and-seamless-journeys/>

Birmingham Airport set for busiest Christmas ever

Insider Media – 15/12/2025

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/midlands/birmingham-airport-set-for-busiest-christmas-ever>

Birmingham Airport Spreads Festive Cheer At Children's Hospital

Travel Daily Media – 18/12/2025

<https://www.traveldailymedia.com/birmingham-airport-spreads-festive-cheer-at-childrens-hospital/>

Indian Brewery to Launch in Birmingham Airport in Partnership with TRG

Birmingham Airport – 18/12/2025

<https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/latest-news/indian-brewery-to-launch-in-birmingham-airport-in-partnership-with-trg/>

Bristol

Electric ride: Bristol Airport to ring in the new year with 21 electric buses

Regional Gateway – 15/12/2025

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/electric-ride-bristol-airport-to-ring-in-the-new-year-with-21-electric-buses/>

East Midlands

High praise from the High Sheriff for East Midlands Airport's crucial regional role

East Midlands Airport – 17/12/2025

<https://mediacentre.eastmidlandsairport.com/high-praise-from-the-high-sheriff-for-east-midlands-airports-crucial-regional-role/>

121,000 passengers booked to fly from East Midlands Airport over festive season

West Bridgford Wire – 13/12/2025

<https://westbridgfordwire.com/121000-passengers-booked-to-fly-from-east-midlands-airport-over-festive-season/>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Edinburgh

This UK airport could be first to offer fast track to America with ‘preclearance’

Independent – 11/12/2025

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/edinburgh-airport-usa-preclearance-flights-checks-b2882545.html>

Thousands take off for Christmas More than 200,000 people flying home from Christmas through Edinburgh Airport

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce – 17/12/2025

<https://www.edinburghchamber.co.uk/thousands-take-off-for-christmas-more-than-200000-people-flying-home-from-christmas-through-edinburgh-airport/>

Glasgow

Glasgow Airport ready for busy festive season with more than 300,000 passengers

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce – 17/12/2025

<https://glasgowchamberofcommerce.com/news/news/2025/december/17/glasgow-airport-ready-for-busy-festive-season-with-more-than-300-000-passengers/>

Glasgow Prestwick

Prestwick Airport marks sixth consecutive profitable year

Travel Radar – 18/12/2025

<https://travelradar.aero/prestwick-airport-profit/>

Leeds Bradford

Ownership of Leeds Bradford airport changes hands

Travel Weekly – 18/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/ownership-of-leeds-bradford-airport-changes-hands>

Liverpool

Bumper Christmas getaway expected at LJLA

Liverpool Chamber – 17/12/2025

<https://www.liverpoolchamber.org.uk/news/2025/12/bumper-christmas-getaway-expected-at-ljla/#:~:text=This%20could%20be%20the%20Airport's,4%25%20compared%20to%20last%20year.>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Passengers urged to allow extra time when using Liverpool airport over festive peaks

Travel Weekly – 16/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/passengers-urged-to-allow-extra-time-when-using-liverpool-airport-over-festive-peaks>

London Heathrow

CAA publishes new Heathrow third runway costs consultation

Travel Weekly – 16/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/caa-publishes-new-heathrow-third-runway-costs-consultation>

Consultation: <https://www.caa.co.uk/publication/download/26538>

Will Heathrow's third runway ever get off the ground?

ARGS – 16/12/2025

<https://airlinergs.com/will-heathrows-third-runway-ever-get-off-the-ground/>

Heathrow expansion would undermine hard-earned air quality progress in capital, London Assembly says

Southwark News – 07/12/2025

<https://southwarknews.co.uk/area/london/heathrow-expansion-would-undermine-hard-earned-air-quality-progress-in-capital-london-assembly-says/>

Hillingdon approves easterly runway alternation for Heathrow

UK Property Forums – 17/12/2025

<https://ukpropertyforums.com/hillingdon-approves-easterly-runway-alternation-for-heathrow/>

Man boards Heathrow flight without ticket, boarding pass or passport in major security breach - Aviation experts have described the incident at UK's busiest airport as a 'significant lapse in security'

The Standard – 18/12/2025

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/london-heathrow-airport-flight-ticket-boarding-pass-passport-security-breach-b1263086.html>

How Heathrow Airport will tackle the Christmas travel rush

Independent – 11/12/2025

<https://www.independent.co.uk/bulletin/news/heathrow-airport-christmas-december-flights-b2882494.html>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

British Airways cleaners at Heathrow to strike over pay dispute during Christmas period

Richmond Nub News – 18/12/2025

<https://richmond.nub.news/news/local-news/british-airways-cleaners-at-heathrow-to-strike-over-pay-dispute-during-christmas-period-282904>

London Heathrow (LHR) Europe's Busiest Airport – But Why?

Travel Radar – 14/12/2025

<https://travelradar.aero/london-heathrow-lhr-europes-busiest-airport-but-why/>

Beware airport parking thieves: police warn over spate of car thefts. Drivers also told to take caution after complaints rise about long-stay meet-and-greet services

The Guardian – 13/12/2025

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2025/dec/13/airport-parking-thieves-long-stay-meet-and-greet-police-warning>

The Rail Innovation Group and Heathrow Express team up for live supplier challenge

Rail Business Daily – 16/12/2025

<https://news.railbusinessdaily.com/the-rail-innovation-group-and-heathrow-express-team-up-for-live-supplier-challenge/>

Former BT chief named as new Heathrow chairman

Travel Weekly – 12/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/former-bt-chief-named-as-new-heathrow-chairman>

Gordon Ramsay plane food market brings global dining experience to Heathrow Airport's Terminal Five

International Airport Review – 17/12/2025

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/301138/gordon-ramsay-plane-food-market-brings-global-dining-experience-to-heathrow-airports-terminal-five/>

Air France to open new lounge at London Heathrow Terminal 4 in Spring 2026

Travel Trade Journal – 16/12/2025

<https://traveltradejournal.com/air-france-to-open-new-lounge-at-london-heathrow-terminal-4-in-spring-2026/>

London Luton

Cleared for take-off? What the London Luton Airport ruling means for major infrastructure projects

TLT – 12/12/2025

<https://www.tlt.com/insights-and-events/insight/cleared-for-take-off-what-the-london-luton-airport-ruling-means-for-major-infrastructure-projects>

University of Bedfordshire and London Luton Airport commit to AI-focused partnership

University of Bedfordshire – 11/12/2025

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/news/2025/december/university-of-bedfordshire-and-london-luton-airport-commit-to-ai-focused-partnership/>

London Southend

EasyJet starts selling Ibiza packages from Southend airport

Travel Weekly – 18/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/easyjet-starts-selling-ibiza-packages-from-southend-airport>

Southend Airport announces flights to skiing hotspot with 'stunning mountain scenery'

Essex Live – 15/12/2025

<https://www.essexlive.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/southend-airport-announces-flights-skiing-10705513>

London Southend Airport sees busiest Christmas getaway in years

Rayo – 17/12/2025

<https://www.hellorayo.co.uk/greatest-hits/essex/news/london-southend-airport-christmas-getaway-2025>

London Stansted

Stansted given permission to raise passenger cap to 51 million

Travel Weekly – 17/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/stansted-given-permission-to-raise-passenger-cap-to-51-million>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Airlines back London Stansted Airport expansion plans

Saffron Walden Reporter – 15/12/2025

<https://www.saffronwaldenreporter.co.uk/news/25699899.airlines-back-london-stansted-airport-expansion-plans/>

Business leaders back expansion to 51 million passengers a year at Stansted Airport

Bishop's Stortford Independent – 16/12/2025

<https://www.bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk/news/business-leaders-back-expansion-to-51-million-passengers-a-y-9446095/>

Stansted could surpass Gatwick as UK's second largest airport after Expansion

Travel Radar – 17/12/2025

<https://travelradar.aero/stansted-could-surpass-gatwick-as-uks-second-largest-airport-after-expansion/>

Stansted Airport awards more than £80k in community funding

Saffron Walden Reporter – 15/12/2025

<https://www.saffronwaldenreporter.co.uk/news/25698604.stansted-airport-awards-80k-community-funding/>

Manchester

Manchester Airports Group maintains passenger momentum ahead of Christmas

Travel Weekly – 11/12/2025

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/manchester-airports-group-maintains-passenger-momentum-ahead-of-christmas>

Huge delays hit Manchester airport after runway shut

Independent – 15/12/2025

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/manchester-airport-runway-shut-delays-latest-b2884608.html>

Newcastle

Stake in Newcastle Airport sold to Spanish firm in multimillion-pound deal. The airport has also announced a major refinancing deal to support its growth plans and environmental measures

Chronicle Live – 18/12/2025

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/stake-newcastle-airport-sold-spanish-33079351>

Airport scraps free drop-off parking

BBC – 18/12/2025

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5z10zg70jo>

Newcastle Airport opens free waiting zone as it prepares for record passenger numbers

Passenger Terminal Today – 18/12/2025

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/accessibility/newcastle-airport-opens-free-waiting-zone-as-it-prepares-for-record-passenger-numbers.html>

Southampton

Southampton Airport secures top environmental award

Yahoo – 12/12/2025

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/southampton-airport-secures-top-environmental-033000034.html>

Southampton Airport and veterans team up to plant hedgerows

Daily Echo – 17/12/2025

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/25703790.southampton-airport-veterans-team-plant-hedgerows/>

Teesside

Tui scraps flights from Teesside Airport to Dalaman

The Northern Echo – 15/12/2025

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/25694569.tui-scraps-flights-teesside-airport-dalaman/>