

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.

23 OCTOBER 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

There are currently no relevant open national consultations.

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Aviation Accessibility Implementation Group update

Provides an update on the progress and future priorities of the Aviation Accessibility Implementation Group in improving aviation accessibility

DfT – 19/10/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-accessibility-implementation-group-update>

Stronger safeguards for wheelchair users and better-trained staff to support disabled air passengers: The changes are intended to make sure people can travel with greater confidence

DfT – 19/10/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-safeguards-for-wheelchair-users-and-better-trained-staff-to-support-disabled-air-passengers>

ICAO calls for more accessible air travel worldwide

Regional Gateway – 16/10/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/icao-advances-global-accessibility-agenda-for-aviation/>

National aviation emergency plan: An overview of the UK's response to air accidents and guidance on assistance to air accident victims and their families

DfT – 16/10/2026

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-aviation-emergency-plan?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3022238a-a12e-4fbc-9850-5d81cb6b6974&utm_content=daily

The next era of airport security

International Airport Review – 21/10/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/security-and-border/the-next-era-of-airport-security/2136781.article>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES

London Gatwick brings management of multi-million-pound advertising estate in-house

20/10/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-brings-management-of-multi-million-pound-advertising-estate-in-house-5b4a6-40f32.html>

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

VodafoneThree boosts 5G coverage at London Gatwick Airport

Mobile Europe – 16/10/2026

<https://www.mobileeurope.co.uk/vodafonethree-london-gatwick-airport/>

General Headlines

Airport chiefs urge government to rein in rising business rates

Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/airport-chiefs-urge-government-to-rein-in-rising-business-rates>

Nats ‘must be accountable’ for failures, transport secretary tells airport leaders

Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/nats-must-be-accountable-for-failures-transport-secretary-tells-airport-leaders>

Middle East conflict dampened European summer air traffic projections

Travel Weekly – 21/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/middle-east-conflict-dampened-european-summer-air-traffic-projections>

Flights increase despite disruption

NATS – 15/10/2026

<https://www.nats.aero/news/flights-increase-despite-disruption/>

Doncaster Sheffield Airport reopening set to take step forward next week

Travel Weekly – 21/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/doncaster-sheffield-airport-reopening-set-to-take-step-forward-next-week>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Passenger news

Stronger safeguards pledged for disabled airline passengers

Travel Weekly – 19/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/stronger-safeguards-pledged-for-disabled-airline-passengers>

what to know as new EU hand luggage rules come into place this month

Daily Record – 19/10/2026

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/travel/what-know-new-eu-hand-37786255>

Industry news

Business Travel Association welcomes airport drop-off fees review

Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/business-travel-association-welcomes-airport-drop-off-fees-review>

Environmental news

New altitude-based priorities guidance draws criticism from AEF over noise pollution concerns

AEF – 15/10/2026

<https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/10/15/new-altitude-based-priorities-guidance/>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Belfast City

Belfast City Airport Lands Third AirportsUK Health And Safety Award

4NI – 21/10/2026

<https://www.4ni.co.uk/northern-ireland-news/336105/belfast-city-airport-lands-third-airportsuk-health-and-safety-award>

Birmingham

Birmingham Airport unveils £2bn master plan for future growth

Regional Gateway – 21/10/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/birmingham-airport-sets-out-2bn-expansion-vision/>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Ryanair expands at Birmingham Airport with five new routes

BTN Europe – 21/10/2026

<https://www.businesstravelnewseurope.com/Air-Travel/Ryanair-expands-at-Birmingham-Airport-with-five-new-routes>

Bristol

Bristol Airport issues update on £500m expansion plans

Bristol Post – 21/10/2026

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-airport-issues-update-500m-11207908>

East Midlands

Freight Handled At East Midlands Airport Increases By 6.3 Percent In September

AGW – 21/10/2026

<https://aircargoweek.com/freight-handled-at-east-midlands-airport-increases-by-6-3-percent-in-september/>

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Airport passengers faced huge queues as baggage belt breakdown causes early morning disruption

Edinburgh News – 18/10/2026

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-airport-baggage-belt-breakdown-early-morning-delays-9294620>

Glasgow

Cumbrian tech firm trials artificial intelligence at Glasgow Airport

Cumbria Crack – 21/10/2026

<https://cumbriacrack.com/2026/10/21/cumbrian-tech-firm-trials-artificial-intelligence-at-glasgow-airport/>

Glasgow Prestwick

NATS publishes report of Prestwick incident

NATS – 16/10/2026

<https://www.nats.aero/news/nats-publishes-report-of-prestwick-incident/>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Leeds Bradford

Leeds Bradford Airport strikes suspended as more than 130 workers enter fresh pay talks

The Yorkshire Post – 19/10/2026

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/travel/leeds-bradford-airport-strikes-suspended-as-more-than-130-workers-enter-fresh-pay-talks-9296915>

Leeds Bradford Airport: Airline to leave after easyJet exit

Telegraph and Argus – 20/10/2026

<https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/26653776.leeds-bradford-airport-airline-leave-easyjet-exit/>

London City

Aspire unveils the 09:LDN Suite name as London City Airport prepares for 2027 and celebrates 40 years of aviation

Travelling for Business – 21/10/2026

<https://travellingforbusiness.co.uk/news/aspire-unveils-the-09ldn-suite-name-as-london-city-airport-prepares-for-2027-and-celebrates-40-years-of-aviation/>

London City Airport runway turns into race track for Nike After Dark women's run

Aerotime – 19/10/2026

<https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/london-city-airport-runway-turns-into-race-track-for-nike-after-dark-womens-run>

London Heathrow

Khan cannot block Heathrow third runway, says aviation minister: The Mayor of London's views are 'consequential' but carry no veto, Keir Mather tells MPs

Telegraph – 21/10/2026

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2026/10/21/khan-cannot-block-heathrow-third-runway-says-minister/>

Heathrow expansion expected to unlock at least 50,000 local jobs as airport launches work experience programme and careers event

International Airport Review – 19/10/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/heathrow-expansion-plans-expected-to-unlock-at-least-50000-local-jobs-alongside-new-skills-programmes/2136772.article>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Third runway at Heathrow Airport would drive growth, Healey says

BBC – 17/10/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw0k07d2nj43o>

Blocking Heathrow's expansion is making Britain poorer

CAPX – 16/10/2026

<https://capx.co/blocking-heathrows-expansion-is-making-britain-poorer>

The UK's biggest airport has signed a memorandum of understanding with Cardiff-based 7 Steel

Wales Online – 15/10/2026

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/cardiff-play-major-role-development-34766739>

Twist in case of businessman suing for £4m after slipping on Bailey's at Heathrow Airport

Independent – 20/10/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/andreas-wuchner-heathrow-airport-court-b3069680.html>

London Luton

Luton Airport hosts airspace and noise week events

Luton Today – 19/10/2026

<https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/transport/luton-airport-hosts-airspace-and-noise-week-events-9297323>

London Luton Airport Recognised as Sector Leader for Fifth Year

Airport Supplier – 20/10/2026

https://www.airport-suppliers.com/airport_press_release/london-luton-airport-recognised-as-sector-leader-for-fifth-year/

London Southend

Southend Airport taxis nuisance parking on residential roads

Echo – 21/10/2026

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/26648454.southend-airport-taxis-nuisance-parking-residential-roads/>

GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Southend Airport third in UK security and passport ranking

Echo – 19/10/2026

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/26650024.southend-airport-third-uk-security-passport-ranking/>

Southend Airport new easyJet routes launch this month

Romford Recorder – 16/10/2026

<https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/26644258.easyjet-launching-three-new-southend-routes-october-2026/>

Manchester

Manchester Airport issues staunch defence of 'simple' £5.50 drop-off fees after Andy Burnham's government orders review

Manchester Evening News – 16/10/2026

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-airport-issues-staunch-defence-34773024>

Southampton

EasyJet expands from Southampton as more 2027 routes go on sale

Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/easyjet-expands-from-southampton-as-more-2027-routes-go-on-sale>

Teesside

New cloud hangs over Teesside International: Uncertainty hangs over Mayor, Lord Ben Houchen's flagship Teesside International Airport this week, ultimately because of its inability to repay its huge debt to its parent body

North East Bylines – 24/09/2026

<https://northeastbylines.co.uk/business/new-cloud-hangs-over-teesside-international/>