



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.

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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

Update to forecasts of greenhouse gas emissions from aviation: The Secretary of State for Transport corrects a small error in departmental forecasts used to support government's carbon budget and growth delivery plan

DfT – 24/02/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-to-forecasts-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-aviation>

[Ballet in the sky — planning, resilience and what lies ahead for summer 2026](#)

NATS blog – 24/02/2026

Large carbon dioxide emissions avoidance potential in improved commercial air transport efficiency

Nature – 07/01/2026

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-025-03069-4>

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

Gatwick Airport Anticipates Busiest Summer Since 2019 with a Record 62 Airlines

Aviation Source News – 20/02/2026

<https://aviationsourcenews.com/gatwick-airport-anticipates-busiest-summer-since-2019-with-a-record-62-airlines/>

Arrest at Gatwick Airport as imitation guns found

20/02/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgk2d3dz6lro>

General Headlines

UK aviation sector sets new 302m passenger record

Travel Weekly – 24/02/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/uk-aviation-sector-sets-new-302m-passenger-record>

Smaller UK airports struggle despite record passenger numbers: Despite booming air travel figures in 2025, some smaller airports have recorded big falls in passenger totals on pre-Covid-19 levels

The Times – 22/02/2026

https://www.thetimes.com/travel/inspiration/budget-travel/smaller-uk-airports-struggle-despite-record-passenger-numbers-v3cklglrm?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqcG2QZyzV4oZK64RBkfNiAxdMeKEPcncb0i3foILk5GoR01iH4oYu

[4EqsndAPRU%3D&gaa_ts=699dd4b5&gaa_sig=-7gkAtVLOAIUIZvGP09dqGirXXvUcZwwnhtSe0pYdMgBwskATow2-m_O9oRJvxy6HiviKYxDkRfZcBKoFS93Pg%3D%3D](https://www.gatwickairport.com/news/4EqsndAPRU%3D&gaa_ts=699dd4b5&gaa_sig=-7gkAtVLOAIUIZvGP09dqGirXXvUcZwwnhtSe0pYdMgBwskATow2-m_O9oRJvxy6HiviKYxDkRfZcBKoFS93Pg%3D%3D)

London New Towns set to be blighted by 'virtually guaranteed' disrupted sleep from flight path noise: Both Thamesmead and Crews Hill in Enfield - two major developments shortlisted by the government's New Towns Taskforce - sit beneath flight paths from the capital's major airports

My London – 18/02/2026

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/london-new-towns-set-blighted-33440039>

The argument for scrapping business class on flights [see *publications section*]

Independent – 23/02/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/business-class-flights-planes-seats-b2926037.html>

'Urgent review' call as fears grow ahead of EES Easter rollout

Travel Weekly – 23/02/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/urgent-review-call-as-fears-grow-ahead-of-ees-easter-rollout>

Europe's aviation sector calls on EU to continue investment in the Digital European Sky

Regional Gateway – 24/02/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/europes-aviation-sector-calls-on-eu-to-continue-investment-in-the-digital-european-sky/>

ASQ Awards show high satisfaction levels at regional airports

Regional Gateway – 24/02/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/asq-awards-show-high-satisfaction-levels-at-regional-airports/>

Passenger news

Expert Simon Calder issues airport advice ahead of massive travel rules change next week

The Mirror – 20/02/2026

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/travel/expert-simon-calder-issues-airport-36755976>

Environmental news

Scrapping business class could halve aviation emissions, according to study [see *publications section*]

Engineering & Technology – 24/02/2026

<https://eandt.theiet.org/2026/02/24/scrapping-business-class-all-economy-cabins-could-halve-aviation-emissions-new-study>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Aberdeen

VodafoneThree switches on 5G and 4G coverage at Aberdeen International Airport

Comms business – 23/02/2026

<https://www.commsbusiness.co.uk/content/news/vodafonethree-switches-on-5g-and-4g-coverage-at-aberdeen-international-airport>

Belfast City

Belfast City Airport Appoints New Head Of Commercial Development

Business Eye – 24/02/2026

<https://www.busesseye.co.uk/news/belfast-city-airport-appoints-new-head-of-commercial-development/>

Belfast International

'Commitment to listening to its travellers': Belfast airport flies high after scooping global award for customer experience

Newsletter – 24/02/2026

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/business/commitment-to-listening-to-its-travellers-belfast-airport-flies-high-after-scooping-global-award-for-customer-experience-5609634>

Birmingham

Birmingham Airport unveils plan to reach net-zero operational emissions by 2033

Edie – 23/02/2026

<https://www.edie.net/birmingham-airport-unveils-plan-to-reach-net-zero-operational-emissions-by-2033/>

Birmingham Airport Unveils LEGO Display At LEGOLAND

Travel Daily Media – 24/02/2026

<https://www.traveldailymedia.com/birmingham-airport-unveils-lego-display-at-legoland/>

Bristol

Neighbours fight back as Bristol Airport unleashes 'total shock to community'

Bristol Post – 22/02/2026

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/neighbours-fight-back-bristol-airport-10829316>

East Midlands

East Midlands Airport defends new drop-off system amid concerns over late payment fine risk

Derby Telegraph – 23/02/2026

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/local-news/east-midlands-airport-defends-new-10828294>

Full list of names for East Midlands Airport's seven new snowploughs

Leicester Mercury – 22/02/2026

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/full-list-names-east-midlands-10828622>

Exeter

Picture of the week: Exeter Airport advances hydrogen roadmap after UK first airside trial: This week's picture of the week highlights Exeter Airport's landmark hydrogen ground handling trial, setting out the next steps towards large scale adoption and future hydrogen aircraft operations

International Airport Review – 20/02/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/302799/picture-of-the-week-exeter-airport-advances-hydrogen-roadmap-after-uk-first-airside-trial/>

Farnborough

Council objects to 50% increase in flights at Farnborough

Basingstoke Gazette – 24/02/2026

<https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/25874531.council-objects-50-increase-flights-farnborough/>

Glasgow Prestwick

Glasgow Prestwick Airport showcases cool chain investment to Indian consul general

Payload Asia – 24/02/2026

<https://payloadasia.com/2026/02/glasgow-prestwick-airport-showcases-cool-chain-investment-indian-consul-general/>

London City

London City Airport appoints Andy Cliffe as Chief Executive Officer to lead its next phase of growth

London Post – 24/02/2026

<https://london-post.co.uk/london-city-airport-appoints-andy-cliffe-as-chief-executive-officer-to-lead-its-next-phase-of-growth/>

London Heathrow

MPs want overhaul of Heathrow regulation before third runway

City AM – 20/02/2026

<https://www.cityam.com/heathrow-regulation-should-be-overhauled-say-mps/>

1 In 2 Members Of Parliament Do Not Believe Consumers Get Good Value From Heathrow Airport

Heathrow Reimagined – 20/02/2026

<https://www.heathrow-reimagined.com/campaign-news/press-release-1-in-2-members-of-parliament-do-not-believe-consumers-get-good-value-from-heathrow-airport/>

Controversial Heathrow expansion plan to include £1.3bn car park The new multistorey spaces would be among the biggest in the UK

Independent – 23/02/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/heathrow-expansion-car-park-b2925623.html>

What Is The Busiest Airport In Europe?

Simple Flying – 20/02/2026

<https://simpleflying.com/busiest-airport-europe/>

Why Heathrow Chose Netcompany to Power its Digital Growth

Technology Magazine – 24/02/2026

<https://technologymagazine.com/news/why-heathrow-chose-netcompany-to-power-its-digital-growth>

London Luton

Let Luton Breathe: Why air quality is the next great health challenge for our town

Luton Today – 24/02/2026

<https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/community/let-luton-breathe-why-air-quality-is-the-next-great-health-challenge-for-our-town-5609843>

London Southend

London Southend Airport to Allow 2 Litres of Liquid in Cabin Baggage

Airport Industry News – 24/02/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/london-southend-airport-to-allow-2-litres-of-liquid-in-cabin-baggage/>

Anger over airport's new pick-up and drop-off fee

BBC – 22/02/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g8dl6y6ypo>

London Stansted

What locals say about airport users clogging their roads

BBC- 23/02/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g0k2mem15o>

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Major UK airport to become second busiest with £33bn revamp - 50 million passengers

Express – 22/02/2026

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2173700/major-uk-airport-become-second>

Contactless pay-as-you-go train ticketing at Stansted airport finally cleared for take-off

The Standard – 24/02/2026

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/contactless-train-tickets-stansted-airport-express-liverpool-street-b1272219.html>

Newcastle

Newcastle Airport wins ‘Best in Europe’ award for exceptional customer service

Routes Online – 24/02/2026

<https://www.routesonline.com/airports/8267/newcastle-international-airport/news/299665982/newcastle-airport-wins-best-in-europe-award-for-exceptional-customer-service/>

Full list of EasyJet routes from Newcastle Airport as new base opening

The Northern Echo – 24/02/2026

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/25877507.full-list-easyjet-routes-newcastle-airport-new-base-opening/>