



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.

19 MARCH 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

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 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

The Airport Operator – Spring 2026 edition

Airports UK – March 2026

https://airportsuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/AiportsUK-Magazine-Spring-March-2026_16-03a.pdf

Jet Zero Taskforce: 2025 annual report

DfT – 17/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-taskforce-2025-annual-report>

Jet Zero Taskforce: Greenhouse Gas Removals Task and Finish Group 2025 report

DfT – 17/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-taskforce-greenhouse-gas-removals-task-and-finish-group-2025-report>

Jet Zero Taskforce: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task and Finish Group 2025 report

DfT – 17/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-taskforce-sustainable-aviation-fuel-task-and-finish-group-2025-report>



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Jet Zero Taskforce: Contrail Impact Mitigation Task and Finish Group 2025 report

DfT – 17/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-taskforce-contrail-impact-mitigation-task-and-finish-group-2025-report>

Jet Zero Taskforce: Hydrogen Task and Finish Group 2025 report

DfT – 17/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jet-zero-taskforce-hydrogen-task-and-finish-group-2025-report>

AEF Response To Government Consultation On The National Planning Policy Framework

AEF – 16/03/2026

<https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/03/16/revisions-national-planning-policy-framework/>

Transforming the skies: Free Route Airspace

NATS blog – 18/03/2026

Flying like Geese: Inside the trial taking inspiration from migratory birds

NATS blog – 11/03/2026

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES & CONSULTATIONS

London Gatwick's Route 4 airspace change proposal reaches halfway point as communities and stakeholders invited to have their say

13/03/2026

Closing date: 28/04/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-s-route-4-airspace-change-proposal-reaches-halfway-point-as-communities-and-stakeholders-invited-to-have-their-say-6ef95-40f32.html>

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

Gatwick profits hit by drop in short-haul flyers

BBC – 11/03/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gjd8xvyrno>

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London Gatwick Airport reports strong 2025 performance and plans future growth

International Airport Review – 11/03/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/303362/london-gatwick-airport-reports-strong-2025-performance-and-plans-future-growth/>

'Gatwick is big enough' - Campaign group reacts to airport's annual results

Sussex World – 13/03/2026

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/environment/gatwick-is-big-enough-campaign-group-reacts-to-airports-annual-results-5703088>

General Headlines

How passenger planes keep flying during a war

BBC – 16/03/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gne35kvno>

How the wars in the Middle East and Russia are adding up to three hours on to flight times

Daily Mail – 13/03/2026

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-15642363/How-wars-Middle-East-Russia-adding-three-hours-flight-times.html>

Will the rising cost of fuel impact air fares?

Independent – 12/03/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/air-fares-fuel-price-rises-oil-iran-us-war-b2936559.html>

Passenger news

Passengers can now send their lost luggage locations to airlines - as over 30million baggage is mishandled every year

Daily Mail – 13/03/2026

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-15643703/Passengers-send-lost-luggage-locations-airlines-30million-baggage-mishandled-year.html>

Industry news

ABTA reports 'significant uplift' in website traffic in Middle East crisis response

Travel Weekly – 16/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/abta-reports-significant-uplift-in-website-traffic-in-middle-east-crisis-response>

Global air passenger demand 'expected to double' by 2050

Travel Weekly – 18/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/global-air-passenger-demand-expected-to-double-by-2050>

Environmental news

Tweaking flight paths could cut aviation's climate impact by half, study suggests

Engineering and Technology – 18/03/2026

<https://eandt.theiet.org/2026/03/18/tweaking-flight-paths-could-cut-aviations-climate-impact-half-study-suggests>

UK Aviation Industry Body Outlines Plans To Boost Greenhouse Gas Removals Market And Tackle Non-CO₂ Emissions

Sustainable Aviation – 17/03/2026

<https://www.sustainableaviation.co.uk/news/uk-aviation-industry-body-outlines-plans-to-boost-greenhouse-gas-removals-market-and-tackle-non-co%E2%82%82-emissions/>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Belfast City

Belfast City Airport Formally Publishes 2040 Master Plan

ITTN – 16/03/2026

<https://ittn.ie/travel-news/belfast-city-airport-formally-publishes-2040-master-plan/>

Belfast International

First look at Belfast International airport's Northern Quarter as it reopens following refurbishment

Belfast Live – 17/03/2026

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/first-look-belfast-international-airports-33600807>

Bristol

Bristol Airport to Invest £10 Million Into New Energy Centre

Airport Industry News – 17/03/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/bristol-airport-to-invest-10-million-into-new-energy-centre/>

East Midlands

New portal offers insight into airport operations for local residents

East Midlands Airport – 16/03/2026

<https://mediacentre.eastmidlandsairport.com/new-portal-offers-insight-into-airport-operations-for-local-residents/>

Airline withdraws plans for new East Midlands Airport route just weeks before first flight

Nottingham World – 18/03/2026

<https://www.nottinghamworld.com/travel/airline-withdraws-plans-for-new-east-midlands-airport-route-just-weeks-before-first-flight-6026530>

Edinburgh

American Airlines launches new Edinburgh-New York route

News and Star – 16/03/2026

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/25939283.american-airlines-launches-new-edinburgh-new-york-route/>

Glasgow

Private aviation terminal opens at Glasgow Airport

Herald Scotland – 18/03/2026

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25946784.private-aviation-terminal-opens-glasgow-airport/>

Glasgow Prestwick

Protest organised over US military use of Prestwick Airport

The Herald – 17/03/2026

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25945365.protest-held-us-military-use-prestwick-airport/>

Leeds Bradford

Airport seeking night exemption for quieter planes

BBC – 13/03/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqxdvjv2jpyo>

Life under the airport flight path

BBC – 14/03/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/cgggdkln5llo>

Transport chiefs confirm commitment to Leeds Bradford Airport parkway station

West Leeds Dispatch – 16/03/2026

<https://westleedsdispatch.com/transport-chiefs-reaffirm-commitment-to-leeds-bradford-airport-parkway-station/>

London City

Bigger planes could come to London City Airport

The Greenwich Wire – 17/03/2026

<https://greenwichwire.co.uk/2026/03/17/bigger-planes-could-come-to-london-city-airport/>

London Heathrow

Heathrow neighbours urged to contact 'relocation' service

Hillingdon Times – 18/03/2026

<https://www.hillingdontimes.co.uk/news/25947932.heathrow-neighbours-urged-contact-relocation-service/>

Residents warned they'll be forced to sell up to make way for Heathrow's third runway: Around 750 homes will be demolished to make way for Heathrow's expansion which has been delayed repeatedly

ITV News – 17/03/2026

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/residents-warned-theyll-be-forced-to-sell-up-to-make-way-for-heathrows-third-runway/bjj0x77>

Decision: Heathrow West Terminal: section 35 direction, Planning Act 2008 - Direction by the Secretary of State for Transport on the Heathrow West Terminal

DfT – 12/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heathrow-west-terminal-section-35-direction-planning-act-2008>

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VIDEO | Heathrow CEO Thomas Woldbye explains how the airport plans to improve the passenger journey and expand within its constrained footprint

Passenger Terminal Today – 18/03/2026

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/expo/video-heathrow-ceo-thomas-woldbye-explains-how-the-airport-plans-to-improve-the-passenger-journey-and-expand-within-its-constrained-footprint.html>

Heathrow Terminal 4 loses third of passengers as Iran war leaves airport empty

Independent – 17/03/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/ghost-airport-heathrow-terminal-4-loses-passengers-middle-east-b2939583.html>

Heathrow Airport upgrades baggage screening systems

London Now – 17/03/2026

<https://www.london-now.co.uk/news/25944398.heathrow-airport-upgrades-baggage-screening-systems/>

British Airways to launch direct flights between London Heathrow and Melbourne

The Standard – 17/03/2026

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/british-airways-flights-to-melbourne-heathrow-launch-date-tickets-b1275255.html>

Heathrow Airport to add new airlines and routes this spring

London Now – 17/03/2026

<https://www.london-now.co.uk/news/25940648.heathrow-airport-add-new-airlines-routes-spring/>

London Southend

Southend Airport to close for three hours this week for 'emergency procedures test': Local residents have been warned to expect 'a full response' from emergency services

Essex Live – 18/03/2026

<https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/southend-airport-close-three-hours-10873293>

London Stansted

Warning of 'substantial disruption' at Stansted as Unite members plot strike

Travel Weekly – 17/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/warning-of-substantial-disruption-at-stansted-as-unite-members-plot-strike>

'Europe's best airline' is launching its first ever flights from London airport today

Metro – 18/03/2026

<https://metro.co.uk/2026/03/18/europes-best-airline-launching-first-ever-flights-london-airport-today-27466225/?ito=newsnow-feed>

Manchester

Manchester Airport introduces biometric system for mixed terminal operations

Manchester Airport deploys Amadeus biometrics in Terminal 2, enabling domestic and international passengers to share infrastructure while improving efficiency and capacity

International Airport Review – 17/03/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/303561/manchester-airport-introduces-biometric-system-for-mixed-terminal-operations/>

Newcastle

Newcastle Airport plans 'smoke and mirrors', campaigners say

Hexham Courant – 18/03/2026

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/25944645.newcastle-airport-plans-smoke-mirrors-campaigners-say/>

Group raises environment and traffic concerns over Newcastle Airport's Masterplan 2040

Northumberland Gazette – 17/03/2026

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/business/group-raises-environment-and-traffic-concerns-over-newcastle-airports-masterplan-2040-6025342>

Teesside

Airport flies high with China cargo deal

Bdaily – 17/03/2026

<https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2026/03/17/airport-flies-high-with-china-cargo-deal>