



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.

2 APRIL 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

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>

New NI government consultation on aviation policy

Closing date: 22/05/2026

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/aviation-policy>

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

UK Airspace Design Support Fund rules and eligibility criteria: Who can apply to the UK Airspace Design Support Fund and fund administration rules

DfT Guidance – Update – 20/03/2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-airspace-design-support-fund-rules-and-eligibility-criteria>

Award winning AI research for the future of UK airspace

NATS blog – 26/03/2026

<https://nats.aero/blog/2026/03/award-winning-ai-research-for-the-future-of-uk-airspace/>

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES & CONSULTATIONS

London Gatwick ranks top in London for passenger experience and prepares for busy Easter as new airlines and routes take off

27/03/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-ranks-top-in-london-for-passenger-experience-and-prepares-for-busy-easter-as-new-airlines-and-routes-take-off-eed13-40f32.html>



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Bonjour Paris! London Gatwick welcomes first Air France flights with a stylish new twice-daily service

30/03/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/bonjour-paris-london-gatwick-welcomes-first-air-france-flights-with-a-stylish-new-twice-daily-service-05c5c-40f32.html>

London Gatwick welcomes Condor's first ever UK route with three daily flights to Frankfurt

01/04/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-welcomes-condor-s-first-ever-uk-route-with-three-daily-flights-to-frankfurt-5cd20-40f32.html>

London Gatwick's Route 4 airspace change proposal - 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 Tops London Airports for Passenger Satisfaction in 2025

Aviation Source News – 30/03/2026

<https://aviationsourcenews.com/gatwick-tops-london-airports-for-passenger-satisfaction-in-2025/>

Jet2 begins operations from new London Gatwick base

Passenger Terminal Today – 30/03/2026

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/passenger-experience/jet2-launches-london-gatwick-base.html>

Trials to see new Gatwick Airport train services launched

Rail Advent – 01/04/2026

<https://www.railadvent.co.uk/2026/04/trials-to-see-new-gatwick-airport-train-services-launched.html>

General Headlines

Aviation trade bodies reiterate call for summer EES suspension

Travel Weekly – 30/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/aviation-trade-bodies-reiterate-call-for-summer-ees-suspension>

Ryanair CEO issues warning over jet fuel shortages amid Iran war – here’s when disruption is expected

Independent – 01/04/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/ryanair-uk-flights-fuel-supplies-shortages-iran-war-b2950058.html>

Passenger news

Brits to be hit with a rise in air fares NEXT WEEK as Air Passenger Duty increases

Daily Mail – 27/03/2026

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-15684255/Brits-hit-rise-air-fares-WEEK-Air-Passenger-Duty-increases.html>

Industry news

Business travel chief condemns latest air tax hike

Travel Weekly – 26/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/business-travel-chief-condemns-latest-air-tax-hike>

Global airline passenger projections cut as IATA warns of rising fuel costs and fares

Travel Weekly – 31/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/global-airline-passenger-projections-cut-as-iata-warns-of-rising-fuel-costs-and-fares>

[25 years of NATS: From 2001 to Today](#)

NATS blog – 31/03/2026

Environmental news

[Reflections from Sustainable Skies World Congress 2026](#)

NATS blog – 27/03/2026

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OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Aberdeen

Union recognition and pay deal delivered for Aberdeen airport cleaners

Unite – 26/03/2026

<https://www.unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2026/march/union-recognition-and-pay-deal-delivered-for-aberdeen-airport-cleaners>

Belfast City

Applications Open For Belfast City Airport's IGNITE Youth Leadership Programme

Business Eye – 26/03/2026

<https://www.busesseye.co.uk/news/applications-open-for-belfast-city-airports-ignite-youth-leadership-programme/>

Birmingham

Birmingham Airport Private Hire Drivers Slam Filthy Toilets And Dire Conditions

PHTM – 01/04/2026

<https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/8733/phtm-news/birmingham-airport-private-hire-drivers-slam-filthy-toilets-and-dire-conditions>

Lufthansa Celebrates 40th Birthday at Birmingham Airport

Birmingham Airport – 01/04/2026

<https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/latest-news/lufthansa-celebrates-40th-birthday-at-birmingham-airport/>

Bristol

Bristol Airport's Expansion Will 'Meet Customer Demand And Support Economic Regional Growth'

Bristol 24/7 – 27/03/2026

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/bristol-airport-expansion-meet-customer-demand-support-economic-regional-growth/>

Campaigners concerned as Bristol Airport submits plans for major runway and terminal expansion

ITV – 27/03/2026

<https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2026-03-27/campaigners-concern-as-airport-submits-plans-for-major-expansion>

East Midlands

150,000 passengers expected to fly from East Midlands Airport this Easter

West Bridgford Wire – 30/03/2026

<https://westbridgfordwire.com/150000-passengers-expected-to-fly-from-east-midlands-airport-this-easter/>

Exeter

Exeter Airport's new global link celebrates 'hugely positive' first year

Exeter Today – 31/03/2026

<https://www.exetertoday.co.uk/news/local-news/2051251/exeter-airports-new-global-link-celebrates-hugely-positive-first-year.html>

Inverness

New budget-friendly flight launched between Inverness and Birmingham

Press and Journal – 30/03/2026

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6986600/easyjet-flights-launched-inverness-birmingham/>

Leeds Bradford

Jet2 hosts Aviation Minister at Leeds Bradford Airport

ARGS – 30/03/2026

<https://airlinergs.com/jet2-hosts-aviation-minister-at-leeds-bradford-airport/>

Ryanair's first Leeds Bradford to Agadir flight takes off

Ilkley Gazette – 01/04/2026

<https://www.ilkleygazette.co.uk/news/25987494.ryanairs-first-leeds-bradford-agadir-flight-takes-off/>

Liverpool

Liverpool Airport tops 'on time' league table

Click Liverpool – 01/04/2026

<https://www.clickliverpool.com/business/64528-liverpool-airport-tops-on-time-league-table/>

London City

London City Airport awards £36,000 to East London charities through Community Fund

ARGS – 01/04/2026

<https://airlinergs.com/london-city-airport-awards-36000-to-east-london-charities-through-community-fund/>

London Heathrow

Heathrow calls on independent experts to oversee third runway plans

Travel Weekly – 27/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/heathrow-calls-on-independent-experts-to-oversee-third-runway-plans>

CAA to consult on next stage of Heathrow airline charges

Travel Weekly – 31/03/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/caa-to-consult-on-next-stage-of-heathrow-airline-charges>

Heathrow's plan for major increases to landing fees blocked by the regulator

Engineering and Technology – 31/03/2026

<https://eandt.theiet.org/2026/03/31/heathrows-plan-major-increases-landing-fees-blocked-regulator>

Heathrow to remain world's most expensive airport

City AM – 31/03/2026

<https://www.cityam.com/heathrow-to-remain-worlds-most-expensive-airport/>

Virgin Atlantic's new Heathrow Airport lounge looks more like a luxury hotel

Metro – 30/03/2026

<https://metro.co.uk/2026/03/30/look-inside-virgin-atlantics-revamped-heathrow-lounge-a-cinema-light-pods-27763464/?ito=newsnow-feed>

Heathrow early careers innovation competition draws on young people's 'drive and inspiration'

New Civil Engineer – 31/03/2026

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/heathrow-early-careers-innovation-competition-draws-on-young-peoples-drive-and-inspiration-31-03-2026/>

80 years ago this week: London Heathrow Airport marks the start of regular passenger services

Aerospace Global News – 30/03/2026

<https://aerospaceglobalnews.com/news/london-heathrow-airport-80-anniversary-history/>

London Luton

Runway Resurfacing Programme

Airport Industry News – 01/04/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/london-luton-airport-completes-runway-resurfacing-programme/>

London Southend

How Has London Southend Airport Improved Its Punctuality Rankings in the UK?

Travel and Tour World – 26/03/2026

<https://www.travelandtourtworld.com/news/article/how-has-london-southend-airport-improved-its-punctuality-rankings-in-the-uk/>

First flight to new summer destination takes off from Southend Airport

Yahoo – 30/03/2026

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/first-flight-summer-destination-takes-153948542.html>

London Stansted

London Stansted Airport: Undertaking a transformative expansion

International Airport Review – 31/03/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/london-stansted-airport-undertaking-a-transformative-expansion/1671905.article>

Stansted Braces for Easter Travel Surge

Travel Radar – 31/03/2026

<https://travelradar.aero/stansted-easter-travel-surge-2026/>

London Stansted Airport joins Essex Wildlife Trust scheme

Braintree and Witham Times – 01/04/2026

<https://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/25988127.london-stansted-airport-joins-essex-wildlife-trust-scheme/>

Manchester

Singapore Airlines marks 40 years of flights from Manchester Airport

Travel Weekly – 01/04/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/singapore-airlines-marks-40-years-of-flights-from-manchester-airport>

'Week of anniversaries' at Manchester Airport as hub marks hat-trick of airline milestones

Manchester Airport – 01/04/2026

<https://mediacentre.manchesterairport.co.uk/week-of-anniversaries-at-manchester-airport-as-hub-marks-hat-trick-of-airline-milestones/>

Manchester Airport Unveils Hacienda-Themed Terminal 2 Bar

MixMag – 30/03/2026

<https://mixmag.net/read/hacienda-themed-bar-opens-in-manchester-airport-news>

Manchester Airport's new £58 'special' Terminal 2 experience

Echo – 30/03/2026

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/manchester-airports-new-58-special-33684242>

Teesside

Teesside Airport has 'packed terminal' as summer season begins on 'Take off Tuesday'

Yahoo – 31/03/2026

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/teesside-airport-packed-terminal-summer-150443667.html>