



# 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.*

**16 APRIL 2026**

## CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

### **NI government consultation on aviation policy**

Closing date: 22/05/2026

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

## PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

### **IATA confirms digital identity and biometrics can deliver fully contactless international journeys**

International Airport Review – 09/04/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/iata-trials-prove-digital-identity-enables-seamless-contactless-international-air-travel/2135167.article>

## GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES & CONSULTATIONS

### **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>

### **Eurowings takes off from London Gatwick with new German routes**

14.04.2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/eurowings-takes-off-from-london-gatwick-with-new-german-routes-421bf-40f32.html>

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## GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

**Gatwick campaign calls for house builders to warn potential buyers about how airspace changes how 'significantly impact future property values and quality of life'**

Sussex Express – 15/04/2026

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/environment/gatwick-campaign-calls-for-house-builders-to-warn-potential-buyers-about-how-airspace-changes-how-significantly-impact-future-property-values-and-quality-of-life-6575781>

**Eurowings lands at Gatwick with two new routes**

Travel Weekly – 15/04/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/eurowings-lands-at-gatwick-with-two-new-routes>

## General Headlines

**Air travel crisis worsens as airlines furlough staff and prepare to ground planes**

Independent – 14/04/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/iran-war-flights-grounded-air-travel-b2957536.html>

**Jet fuel supplies to take 'months' to recover from war disruption: IATA**

New Arab – 08/04/2026

<https://www.newarab.com/news/jet-fuel-supplies-take-months-recover-war-iata>

**What would peace in the Gulf mean for airlines and passengers?**

**Plane Talk: Before things get better, they can only get worse**

Independent – 09/04/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/gulf-air-passengers-fares-fuel-ceasefire-b2953816.html>

**First day of EU Entry Exit System (EES) disruption spark calls for flexibility**

International Airport Review – 13/04/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/first-day-of-eu-entry-exit-system-ees-disruption-spark-calls-for-flexibility/2135194.article>

## GATCOM WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

**The European airports where Brits are facing hours-long queues and missed flights due to the new Entry/Exit System rules**

Daily Mail – 15/04/2026

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-15734785/European-airports-long-queues-missed-flights-Entry-Exit-rules.html>

**How can you avoid airport border check delays?**

BBC – 14/04/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yv7jjny4o>

**AGS Airports appoints design partners for £350m transformation programme**

DFNI – 13/04/2026

<https://www.dfnionline.com/latest-news/retail/ags-airports-appoints-design-partners-for-350m-transformation-programme-13-04-2026/>

### Passenger news

**Simon Calder answers your EU entry-exit system questions – from queues to what happens if you miss your flight**

Independent – 15/04/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/eu-entry-exit-system-questions-uk-travel-simon-calder-b2957082.html>

**Smartvel launches TravelAble for accessible air travel**

Regional Gateway – 13/04/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/smartvel-launches-travelable-for-accessible-air-travel/>

### Industry news

**Travel spend falls for first time since Covid amid Middle East conflict**

Travel Weekly – 14/04/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/travel-spend-falls-for-first-time-since-covid-amid-middle-east-conflict>

### Environmental news

**New aircraft will face stricter environmental standards**

Linked In (ICAO) – 27/03/2026

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/new-aircraft-face-stricter-environmental-standards-icao-ecb9e>

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## OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

### Birmingham

#### £16m boost to tackle Birmingham Airport and JLR congestion

Birmingham Live – 13/04/2026

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/16m-boost-tackle-birmingham-airport-33761245>

#### Cotswolds Distillery retail exclusive at Birmingham Airport.

Birmingham Airport – 13/04/2026

<https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/latest-news/cotswolds-distillery-releases-limited-edition-single-cask-whisky-for-birmingham-airport/>

### Bristol

#### Bristol Airport expansion is ‘critical’ for the South West’s economy, new survey shows

The Business Desk – 14/04/2026

<https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/south-west/news/38787-bristol-airport-expansion-critical-for-south-west-economy>

### East Midlands

#### East Midlands Airport records March passenger increase as summer schedules launch

West Bridgford Wire – 15/04/2026

<https://westbridgfordwire.com/east-midlands-airport-records-march-passenger-increase-as-summer-schedules-launch/>

#### Customer choice is key to Meet & Greet improvements at East Midlands Airport

East Midlands Airport – 13/04/2026

<https://mediacentre.eastmidlandsairport.com/customer-choice-is-key-to-meet--greet-improvements-at-east-midlands-airport/>

### Edinburgh

#### Delta launch year round service from Edinburgh to JFK

The Edinburgh Reporter – 14/04/2026

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2026/04/delta-launch-year-round-service-from-edinburgh-to-jfk/>

### Leeds Bradford

**How Farrans is doubling the size of Leeds Bradford Airport – while it remains operational**

Construction News – 10/04/2026

<https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/civils/how-farrans-is-doubling-the-size-of-leeds-bradford-airport-while-it-remains-operational-10-04-2026/>

### Liverpool

**Not Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted - the airport constantly named UK's best Travellers frequently report being able to park, pass through security and reach their gate in under 15 minutes**

Express – 13/04/2026

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2193283/best-uk-airport-liverpool-heathrow-gatwick-stansted>

### London City

**London City Airport grants £36k to east London communities**

East London Advertiser – 13/04/2026

<https://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/26017083.london-city-airport-grants-36k-east-london-communities/>

### London Heathrow

**Heathrow third runway plans face fresh opposition as campaigners warn of climate and community impact**

Richmond Nub News – 15/04/2026

<https://richmond.nub.news/news/local-news/local-campaigner-opposes-heathrow-expansion-plans-293240>

**Heathrow sees busiest March with transfer passenger jump**

London Now – 13/04/2026

<https://www.london-now.co.uk/news/26015472.heathrow-sees-busiest-march-transfer-passenger-jump/>

**Major airline that flies from Heathrow Airport cuts flights over £400m fuel bill**

Mirror – 14/04/2026

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/major-airline-flies-heathrow-airport-37008418>

### **Heathrow handles over quarter of UK trade by value in 2025**

ADS Advance – 15/04/2026

<https://www.adsadvance.co.uk/heathrow-handles-over-quarter-of-uk-trade-by-value-in-2025.html>

### **Tunnel to Heathrow could be privately funded under revived rail link plans**

Ian Visits – 09/04/2026

<https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/tunnel-to-heathrow-could-be-privately-funded-under-revived-rail-link-plans-88666/>

### **Heathrow cautions over ‘uncertain’ few months due to Middle East crisis**

Travel Weekly – 14/04/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/heathrow-cautions-over-uncertain-few-months-due-to-middle-east-crisis>

## **London Stansted**

### **Stansted Airport PRM service workers vote to strike this week**

International Airport Review – 13/04/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/stansted-airport-prm-service-workers-vote-to-strike-this-week/2135195.article>

### **Stansted Airport joins Essex Wildlife Trust scheme**

Braintree and Witham Times – 11/04/2026

<https://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/25988493.stansted-airport-joins-essex-wildlife-trust-scheme/>

## **Manchester**

### **Manchester Airport's Airside Access 2026**

Travel Weekly – 15/04/2026

<https://www.travelweekly.co.uk/media/manchester-airports-airside-access-2026>

## **Southampton**

### **Southampton Airport set to undergo major upgrades**

Daily Echo – 15/04/2026

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/26019543.southampton-airport-set-undergo-major-upgrades/>