

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.

21 MAY 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

New CAA consultation: CAP3251: Heathrow capacity expansion – consultation on a shortlist of regulatory models

Closing date: 15/06/2026

<https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-publications/publications/documents/content/cap3251/>

NI government consultation on aviation policy

Closing date: 22/05/2026

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

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

The health impacts of airports on local residents

UK Parliament – 07/05/2026

<https://post.parliament.uk/the-health-impacts-of-airports-on-local-residents/>

WATCH: Noise Action Week Launch Event - 11-15 May 2026 - Professor Charlotte Clark, speaks from around 30 mins into the presentation

<https://youtu.be/hT5SHEuNAEQ?si=jZHRQylwslI9zMhF>

Link to the broadcast she refers to in August 2025:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002hkpy?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>

IATA unveils new baggage community platform designed to modernise airport baggage messaging and improve operational efficiency across the global aviation sector: IATA has introduced a new digital baggage messaging platform aimed at improving baggage tracking operational efficiency and passenger experience across the aviation industry

International Airport Review – 20/05/2026

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/iata-launches-baggage-platform-to-support-digital-messaging-transition/2135498.article>



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Airport baggage handling project: next generation systems transforming performance

International Airport Review – 13/05/2026

https://www.internationalairportreview.com/airport-baggage-handling-project-next-generation-systems-transforming-performance/2135401.article?utm_campaign=17346_IAR%20-%20Newsletter%20-%202021.5.26&utm_medium=email&utm_source=International%20Airport%20Review&dm_i=7ZP5,DDU,FESRA,182A,1,0,0,0

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES

Gatwick Region Airport Economic Zone sending largest ever delegation to major UK investment and infrastructure forum

18/05/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/gatwick-region-airport-economic-zone-sending-largest-ever-delegation-to-major-uk-investment-and-infrastructure-forum-a8c7f-40f32.html>

London Gatwick welcomes first ever flights to Ottawa with new Air Transat route

15/05/2026

<https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-welcomes-first-ever-flights-to-ottawa-with-new-air-transat-route-71543-40f32.html>

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

Gatwick Airport passengers warned over smoking rules

The Argus – 19/05/2026

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/26117883.gatwick-airport-passengers-warned-smoking-rules/>

Government plans for 3,000 homes near Gatwick Airport to be decided by council

Surrey Live – 19/05/2026

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/government-plans-3000-homes-near-33964866>

General Headlines

European airports body 'strongly condemns' UK slot usage waiver

Travel Weekly – 21/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/european-airports-body-strongly-condemns-uk-slot-usage-waiver>

European airlines' 'confidence grows' over jet fuel supplies

Travel Weekly – 19/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/european-airlines-confidence-grows-over-jet-fuel-supplies>

Aviation chief warns high fares likely to continue into next year

Travel Gossip – 14/05/2026

<https://travelgossip.co.uk/latestnews/aviation-chief-warns-high-fares-likely-to-continue-into-next-year/>

Cheap holidays to Spain and Greece most at risk of flight cancellations

Aviation regulators have warned airlines not to offer flights that aren't expected to depart this summer

iNews – 20/05/2026

<https://inews.co.uk/news/cheap-holidays-spain-greece-risk-flight-cancellations-4428475?ITO=newsnow>

EasyJet issue summer fuel update after sharp rise in financial losses

Independent – 21/05/2026

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/easyjet-aviation-fuel-supply-summer-financial-losses-b2980898.html>

Jet2 says 'this summer is on' as it reiterates confidence in jet fuel supplies

Travel Weekly – 20/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/jet2-says-this-summer-is-on-as-it-reiterates-confidence-in-jet-fuel-supplies>

Airport parking charges are 'needless tax'

BBC – 20/05/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0j2vn526p5o>

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen are UK's 'most affordable' airports

The Herald – 20/05/2026

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/26123182.edinburgh-glasgow-aberdeen-uks-most-affordable-airports/>

Passenger news

Younger children will be able to use e-gates at UK airports

Travel Weekly – 14/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/younger-children-will-be-able-to-use-e-gates-at-uk-airports>

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The airlines giving staff autism training - as Virgin Atlantic becomes latest carrier to improve flying experience for neurodivergent passengers

Daily Mail – 15/05/2026

<https://www.dailymail.com/travel/article-15820927/airlines-autism-training-Virgin-Atlantic-neurodivergent-passengers.html>

Industry news

CAA sets out 'clear expectations' to airlines with fuel challenges

Travel Weekly – 19/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/caa-sets-out-clear-expectations-to-airlines-with-fuel-challenges>

ATC punctuality stays high as air traffic grows

NATS – 20/05/2026

<https://www.nats.aero/news/atc-punctuality-stays-high-as-air-traffic-grows/>

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Aberdeen

Aberdeen Airport to host annual midnight Runway Run on tarmac for seventh year

Aberdeen Live – 20/05/2026

<https://www.aberdeenlive.news/news/aberdeen-news/aberdeen-airport-host-annual-midnight-10975623>

Belfast International

Belfast International Airport completes first phase of £100m redevelopment programme

Safer Highways – 19/05/2026

<https://www.saferhighways.co.uk/post/belfast-international-airport-completes-first-phase-of-100m-redevelopment-programme>

Heathrow link from Belfast International Airport 'would add £29m in tourism spending'

Belfast Telegraph – 20/05/2026

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/heathrow-link-from-belfast-international-airport-would-add-£29m-in-tourism-spending/a/152138010.html>

Birmingham

Tui launches winter service from Birmingham to The Gambia

Travel Weekly – 21/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/tui-launches-winter-service-from-birmingham-to-the-gambia>

Bristol

Plans for new Bristol Airport destinations divides 'life will become unbearable'

Bristol Post – 20/05/2026

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/plans-new-bristol-airport-destinations-10972548>

West of England residents back Bristol Airport expansion

ADS Advance – 15/05/2026

<https://www.adsadvance.co.uk/west-of-england-residents-back-bristol-airport-expansion.html>

The UK's most expensive airport to fly from this summer revealed and it's not in London

Metro – 19/05/2026

<https://metro.co.uk/2026/05/19/uks-expensive-airport-fly-this-summer-revealed-not-london-28431451/?ito=newsnow-feed>

East Midlands

East Midlands Airport prepares for summer surge

East Midlands Business Link – 19/05/2026

<https://www.eastmidlandsbusinesslink.co.uk/mag/featured/east-midlands-airport-prepares-for-summer-surge/>

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Airport hikes drop-off fee, blaming rise in business rates

Travel Gossip – 19/05/2026

<https://travelgossip.co.uk/latestnews/edinburgh-airport-hikes-drop-off-fee-blaming-rise-in-business-rates/>

Black cab fury grows over Edinburgh Airport charges as union takes fight to Scottish ministers

Taxi Point – 21/05/2026

<https://www.taxi-point.co.uk/post/black-cab-fury-grows-over-edinburgh-airport-charges-as-union-takes-fight-to-scottish-ministers>



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Exeter

Exeter Airport passenger numbers up 32 per cent

Crediton Courier – 19/05/2026

<https://www.creditoncourier.co.uk/news/exeter-airport-passenger-numbers-up-32-per-cent-904741>

Farnborough

Farnborough Airport to install Spitfire-inspired sculpture celebrating British aviation heritage

Regional Gateway – 15/05/2026

<https://www.regionalgateway.net/farnborough-airport-to-install-spitfire-inspired-sculpture-celebrating-british-aviation-heritage/>

Glasgow

Glasgow Airport Pushes For More European, North American Connectivity

Aviation Week – 18/05/2026

<https://aviationweek.com/air-transport/airports-networks/glasgow-airport-pushes-more-european-north-american-connectivity>

The Psychology of Rapid Recovery: How Intelligent Intuition Shaped Crisis Leadership at Glasgow Airport

The BCI – 18/05/2026

<https://www.thebci.org/news/the-psychology-of-rapid-recovery-how-intelligent-intuition-shaped-crisis-leadership.html>

Glasgow Prestwick

Glasgow Prestwick tops one million kg of salmon exports

Aviation Business News – 19/05/2026

<https://www.aviationbusinessnews.com/cargo/cargo-news/glasgow-prestwick-tops-one-million-kg-of-salmon-exports/>

Leeds Bradford

Airport did not breach night flights limit

BBC – 14/05/2026

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c74rdg9lmjvo>

Leeds Bradford Airport Welcomes Positive CLEUD Decision, Confirming Compliance With Night Flight Conditions

Airport Suppliers – 19/05/2026

https://www.airport-suppliers.com/airport_press_release/leeds-bradford-airport-welcomes-positive-cleud-decision-confirming-compliance-with-night-flight-conditions/

Leeds Bradford Airport warning over rogue parking operators

Telegraph and Argus – 17/05/2026

<https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/26127259.leeds-bradford-airport-warning-rogue-parking-operators/>

Plans for third runway at Heathrow could lead to direct flights between Leeds Bradford Airport and London

Yorkshire Post – 20/05/2026

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/traffic-and-travel/heathrow-expansion-plans-direct-flights-to-leeds-bradford-airport-8553651>

Liverpool

Unique 2am event confirmed for Liverpool John Lennon Airport

Echo – 21/05/2026

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/unique-2am-event-confirmed-liverpool-33985524>

London City

Bigger Aircraft, More Destinations: London City Airport Awaits Pivotal Decision

Business Traveller – 20/05/2026

<https://www.businesstraveller.com/news/bigger-aircraft-more-destinations-london-city-airport-awaits-pivotal-decision/>

Wellbeing, safety and teamwork front and centre at London City Airport for national campaign week

Airport Suppliers – 21/05/2026

https://www.airport-suppliers.com/airport_press_release/wellbeing-safety-and-teamwork-front-and-centre-at-london-city-airport-for-national-campaign-week/

London Heathrow

Hotel tycoon Arora launches revamped Heathrow runway proposal

City AM – 18/05/2026

<https://www.cityam.com/hotel-tycoon-arora-launches-revamped-heathrow-bid/>

CAA unveils consultation on shortlist of models for Heathrow expansion

Travel Weekly – 15/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/caa-unveils-consultation-on-shortlist-of-models-for-heathrow-expansion>

Airlines welcome alternative two-phase plan for third Heathrow runway

Travel Weekly – 18/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/airlines-welcome-alternative-two-phase-plan-for-third-heathrow-runway>

MPs ‘not convinced’ Heathrow’s £49bn third runway will be financed entirely with private funds

New Civil Engineer – 18/05/2026

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/mps-not-convinced-heathrows-49bn-third-runway-will-be-financed-entirely-with-private-funds-18-05-2026/>

Heathrow says third runway could enable more domestic airport links

Travel Weekly – 20/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/heathrow-says-third-runway-could-enable-more-domestic-airport-links>

Passengers wait for luggage for hours in Heathrow Airport baggage ‘fiasco’

Metro – 16/05/2026

<https://metro.co.uk/2026/05/16/passengers-wait-luggage-hours-heathrow-airport-baggage-fiasco-28398224/>

BA asks Heathrow for £10m after baggage system breakdowns

Travel Weekly – 19/05/2026

<https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/ba-asks-heathrow-for-10m-after-baggage-system-breakdowns>

Heathrow Baggage System Failure Raises Questions Over Operational Resilience

Airport Industry News – 21/05/2026

<https://airportindustry-news.com/heathrow-baggage-system-failure-raises-questions-over-operational-resilience/>

Heathrow passenger numbers fall 5.3% amid Middle East conflict

FTN News – 18/05/2026

<https://ftnnews.com/travel-news/aviation/heathrow-passenger-numbers-fall-5-3-amid-middle-east-conflict/>

TfL eyes Heathrow Express takeover as 2028 deadline looms

Ian Visits – 19/05/2026

<https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/tfl-eyes-heathrow-express-takeover-as-2028-deadline-looms-89575/>

British discus champion outraged after Heathrow 'meet and greet' parking firm staff joyride her Ford Focus while she's abroad

Daily Mail – 15/05/2026

<https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-15818327/kirsty-law-discus-heathrow-car-joyride.html>

Heathrow early careers innovation competition winner named

New Civil Engineer – 19/05/2026

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/uncategorized/heathrow-early-careers-innovation-competition-winner-named-19-05-2026/>

London Luton

Luton airport expansion challenge fails as Court of Appeal refuses extension of time

Solicitor's Journal – 21/05/2026

<https://www.solicitorsjournal.com/sjarticle/luton-airport-expansion-challenge-fails-as-court-of-appeal-refuses-extension-of-time?category=none>

London Southend

London Southend Eyes Additional Based Aircraft, Domestic Routes

Aviation Week – 18/05/2026

<https://aviationweek.com/air-transport/airports-networks/london-southend-eyes-additional-based-aircraft-domestic-routes>

London Stansted

Stansted Airport marks UK Airports Health and Safety Week

Braintree and Witham Times – 18/05/2026

<https://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/26122212.stansted-airport-marks-uk-airports-health-safety-week/>

Manchester

Virgin Atlantic celebrates 30 years at Manchester Airport

Marketing Stockport – 18/05/2026

<https://marketingstockport.co.uk/news/virgin-atlantic-celebrates-30-years-at-manchester-airport/>

Newcastle

What life is really like living next door to Newcastle Airport: The reality of living under the Newcastle Airport flightpath with residents hearing 'bombastic sounds' when planes take off and land

Chronicle Live – 16/05/2026

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/what-life-really-like-living-33948907>

Teesside

Teesside International Airport linked with potential Heathrow routes

The Northern Echo – 21/05/2026

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/26125561.teesside-international-airport-linked-potential-heathrow-routes/>