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.

23 OCTOBER 2026

CURRENT NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

There are currently no relevant open national consultations.

PUBLICATIONS & INDUSTRY UPDATES

Aviation Accessibility Implementation Group update
Provides an update on the progress and future priorities of the Aviation Accessibility Implementation Group in improving aviation accessibility
DfT – 19/10/2026
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-accessibility-implementation-group-update

Stronger safeguards for wheelchair users and better-trained staff to support disabled air passengers: The changes are intended to make sure people can travel with greater confidence
DfT – 19/10/2026
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-safeguards-for-wheelchair-users-and-better-trained-staff-to-support-disabled-air-passengers

ICAO calls for more accessible air travel worldwide
Regional Gateway – 16/10/2026
https://www.regionalgateway.net/icao-advances-global-accessibility-agenda-for-aviation/

National aviation emergency plan: An overview of the UK's response to air accidents and guidance on assistance to air accident victims and their families
DfT – 16/10/2026
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-aviation-emergency-plan?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3022238a-a12e-4fbc-9850-5d81cb6b6974&utm_content=daily

The next era of airport security
International Airport Review – 21/10/2026
https://www.internationalairportreview.com/security-and-border/the-next-era-of-airport-security/2136781.article

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GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED MEDIA RELEASES

London Gatwick brings management of multi-million-pound advertising estate in-house
20/10/2026
https://www.mediacentre.gatwickairport.com/news/london-gatwick-brings-management-of-multi-million-pound-advertising-estate-in-house-5b4a6-40f32.html

GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS

VodafoneThree boosts 5G coverage at London Gatwick Airport
Mobile Europe – 16/10/2026
https://www.mobileeurope.co.uk/vodafonethree-london-gatwick-airport/

General Headlines

Airport chiefs urge government to rein in rising business rates
Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/airport-chiefs-urge-government-to-rein-in-rising-business-rates

Nats 'must be accountable' for failures, transport secretary tells airport leaders
Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/nats-must-be-accountable-for-failures-transport-secretary-tells-airport-leaders

Middle East conflict dampened European summer air traffic projections
Travel Weekly – 21/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/middle-east-conflict-dampened-european-summer-air-traffic-projections

Flights increase despite disruption
NATS – 15/10/2026
https://www.nats.aero/news/flights-increase-despite-disruption/

Doncaster Sheffield Airport reopening set to take step forward next week
Travel Weekly – 21/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/doncaster-sheffield-airport-reopening-set-to-take-step-forward-next-week

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Passenger news

Stronger safeguards pledged for disabled airline passengers
Travel Weekly – 19/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/stronger-safeguards-pledged-for-disabled-airline-passengers

what to know as new EU hand luggage rules come into place this month
Daily Record – 19/10/2026
https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/travel/what-know-new-eu-hand-37786255

Industry news

Business Travel Association welcomes airport drop-off fees review
Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/business-travel-association-welcomes-airport-drop-off-fees-review

Environmental news

New altitude-based priorities guidance draws criticism from AEF over noise pollution concerns
AEF – 15/10/2026
https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/10/15/new-altitude-based-priorities-guidance/

OTHER UKACCS MEMBER AIRPORTS

Belfast City

Belfast City Airport Lands Third AirportsUK Health And Safety Award
4NI – 21/10/2026
https://www.4ni.co.uk/northern-ireland-news/336105/belfast-city-airport-lands-third-airportsuk-health-and-safety-award

Birmingham

Birmingham Airport unveils £2bn master plan for future growth
Regional Gateway – 21/10/2026
https://www.regionalgateway.net/birmingham-airport-sets-out-2bn-expansion-vision/

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Ryanair expands at Birmingham Airport with five new routes
BTN Europe – 21/10/2026
https://www.businesstravelnewseurope.com/Air-Travel/Ryanair-expands-at-Birmingham-Airport-with-five-new-routes

Bristol

Bristol Airport issues update on £500m expansion plans
Bristol Post – 21/10/2026
https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-airport-issues-update-500m-11207908

East Midlands

Freight Handled At East Midlands Airport Increases By 6.3 Percent In September
AGW – 21/10/2026
https://aircargoweek.com/freight-handled-at-east-midlands-airport-increases-by-6-3-percent-in-september/

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Airport passengers faced huge queues as baggage belt breakdown causes early morning disruption
Edinburgh News – 18/10/2026
https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-airport-baggage-belt-breakdown-early-morning-delays-9294620

Glasgow

Cumbrian tech firm trials artificial intelligence at Glasgow Airport
Cumbria Crack – 21/10/2026
https://cumbriacrack.com/2026/10/21/cumbrian-tech-firm-trials-artificial-intelligence-at-glasgow-airport/

Glasgow Prestwick

NATS publishes report of Prestwick incident
NATS – 16/10/2026
https://www.nats.aero/news/nats-publishes-report-of-prestwick-incident/

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Leeds Bradford

Leeds Bradford Airport strikes suspended as more than 130 workers enter fresh pay talks

The Yorkshire Post – 19/10/2026
https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/travel/leeds-bradford-airport-strikes-suspended-as-more-than-130-workers-enter-fresh-pay-talks-9296915

Leeds Bradford Airport: Airline to leave after easyJet exit

Telegraph and Argus – 20/10/2026
https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/26653776.leeds-bradford-airport-airline-leave-easyjet-exit/

London City

Aspire unveils the 09:LDN Suite name as London City Airport prepares for 2027 and celebrates 40 years of aviation

Travelling for Business – 21/10/2026
https://travellingforbusiness.co.uk/news/aspire-unveils-the-09ldn-suite-name-as-london-city-airport-prepares-for-2027-and-celebrates-40-years-of-aviation/

London City Airport runway turns into race track for Nike After Dark women's run

Aerotime – 19/10/2026
https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/london-city-airport-runway-turns-into-race-track-for-nike-after-dark-womens-run

London Heathrow

Khan cannot block Heathrow third runway, says aviation minister: The Mayor of London's views are 'consequential' but carry no veto, Keir Mather tells MPs

Telegraph – 21/10/2026
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2026/10/21/khan-cannot-block-heathrow-third-runway-says-minister/

Heathrow expansion expected to unlock at least 50,000 local jobs as airport launches work experience programme and careers event

International Airport Review – 19/10/2026
https://www.internationalairportreview.com/heathrow-expansion-plans-expected-to-unlock-at-least-50000-local-jobs-alongside-new-skills-programmes/2136772.article

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Third runway at Heathrow Airport would drive growth, Healey says
BBC – 17/10/2026
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw0k07d2nj43o

Blocking Heathrow's expansion is making Britain poorer
CAPX – 16/10/2026
https://capx.co/blocking-heathrows-expansion-is-making-britain-poorer

The UK's biggest airport has signed a memorandum of understanding with Cardiff-based 7 Steel
Wales Online – 15/10/2026
https://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/cardiff-play-major-role-development-34766739

Twist in case of businessman suing for £4m after slipping on Bailey's at Heathrow Airport
Independent – 20/10/2026
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/andreas-wuchner-heathrow-airport-court-b3069680.html

London Luton

Luton Airport hosts airspace and noise week events
Luton Today – 19/10/2026
https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/transport/luton-airport-hosts-airspace-and-noise-week-events-9297323

London Luton Airport Recognised as Sector Leader for Fifth Year
Airport Supplier – 20/10/2026
https://www.airport-suppliers.com/airport_press_release/london-luton-airport-recognised-as-sector-leader-for-fifth-year/

London Southend

Southend Airport taxis nuisance parking on residential roads
Echo – 21/10/2026
https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/26648454.southend-airport-taxis-nuisance-parking-residential-roads/

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Southend Airport third in UK security and passport ranking
Echo – 19/10/2026
https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/26650024.southend-airport-third-uk-security-passport-ranking/

Southend Airport new easyJet routes launch this month
Romford Recorder – 16/10/2026
https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/26644258.easyjet-launching-three-new-southend-routes-october-2026/

Manchester

Manchester Airport issues staunch defence of 'simple' £5.50 drop-off fees after Andy Burnham's government orders review
Manchester Evening News – 16/10/2026
https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/manchester-airport-issues-staunch-defence-34773024

Southampton

EasyJet expands from Southampton as more 2027 routes go on sale
Travel Weekly – 15/10/2026
https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/easyjet-expands-from-southampton-as-more-2027-routes-go-on-sale

Teesside

New cloud hangs over Teesside International: Uncertainty hangs over Mayor, Lord Ben Houchen's flagship Teesside International Airport this week, ultimately because of its inability to repay its huge debt to its parent body
North East Bylines – 24/09/2026
https://northeastbylines.co.uk/business/new-cloud-hangs-over-teesside-international/