



Department
for Transport

Situation Report (11)

Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

SITREP DETAILS

Date	26/12/2018
Time	20:00 [Information Cut Off: 19:00]
Contact	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED]

HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick is operating at normal capacity today.

[REDACTED]

- This incident is being regarded by industry as malicious attempt to disrupt operations. Two suspects have been released without charge and there are no further substantial lines of inquiry. Sussex Police are continuing to pursue their investigation.

AVIATION IMPACTS

- Gatwick is operating as normal today.
- Passenger welfare arrangements remain in place should there be any delays or cancellations to flights. DfT will not request any further situational updates from Gatwick, by exception, but will monitor any operational issues that may arise.

OTHER AIRPORTS

- All airports are reporting no problems.
- Birmingham Air Traffic Control lost its electronic flight data system. As a result, aircraft could not land or depart. The airport was back up and running by 00:00 on 24 December 2018. All affected passengers were taken care of by the airlines and were either rebooked on other services or provided with accommodation where required.

AVIATION SECURITY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

POLICE OPERATIONS – HOME OFFICE

- Two suspects have been released without charge and there are no lines of further inquiries on this investigation. Sussex police has issued a statement clarifying that there have been (numerous) drone sightings around Gatwick. Minister for Security and Economic Crime has issued a press release paying tribute to the police and MoD who are dealing with this incident.

OTHER MODE IMPACTS

- No service disruption is reported on rail routes into Gatwick, which are showing good service to passengers.
- No passenger handling issues reported by GTR at Gatwick Airport station
- The last day of industrial action on South Western Railways (SWR) by the RMT Union was on Saturday 22 December 2018. Further action is expected on Thursday 27 December 2018 and Monday 31 December 2018. There is reduced service on SWR due to planned engineering work at Waterloo: platforms 1 to 10 closed until Friday 28 December 2018.

- As a consequence of London Victoria engineering works, there will be no Gatwick Express services in operation between Clapham Junction and London Victoria from Sunday 23 December to Wednesday 2 January. Ticket acceptance is in place on London Underground and alternative train operating companies will be running to Gatwick from Clapham Junction, London Bridge and Blackfriars.

CAPABILITIES

- DfT are liaising with Home Office OSCT, FCO and MoD.

MEDIA AND COMMS

- The story has fallen down prominence in the news with papers today focussing on the couple who were named as police suspects. The drone incident is no longer in the national broadcast media bulletins.
- The Guardian says Paul Gait and Elaine Kirk could be set to win £75,000 in damages from the papers which named them.
- The Sun says the police are no closer to finding the perpetrators than they were last week and The Telegraph carries an article based on calls from MPs to let the Met Police lead the investigation, instead of Sussex Police.

- The Mirror and I say other airports are set to have anti-drone technology after Gatwick spent £5million on upping its security.
- We continue to stay in close contact with the other government departments and agencies involved in the response.
- The Home Office has prepared and published animations reiterating the consequences of using drones illegally both in terms of the potential sentences individuals could face and the fact that it puts lives at risk. They have been shared extensively by Government and police accounts as well as aviation focused accounts.

BATTLE RHYTHM

26th December 2018

[REDACTED]

27th December 2018

[REDACTED]

28th December 2018

[REDACTED]