



Department
for Transport

Situation Report (10)

Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

SITREP DETAILS

Date	24/12/2018
Time	21:00 [Information Cut Off: 19:00]
Contact	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED]

HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick is operating at normal capacity today, with only 1 cancellation.

[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

- As of 17:00, there have been 217 arrivals and 256 departures so far.
- Over the Christmas period, the following flights are scheduled at Gatwick airport:

25th December: 180 flights scheduled with 34,729 passengers

26th December: 662 flights scheduled with 107,187 passengers
- 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

- [REDACTED] All affected passengers were taken care of by the airlines and were either rebooked on other services or provided with accommodation where required. All other airports are reporting no problems.
- As of 22:48 on 23 December 2018, Birmingham airport reported that 8 arrivals were diverted, 6 arrivals were cancelled and 10 departures were cancelled.

AVIATION SECURITY

- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [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.

- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]

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.

- DfT continues to receive updates from airports today.

MEDIA AND COMMS

- The incident continues to feature prominently across broadcast and online today, although it is starting to move down the news agenda. The main focus today has been the hour long conference call chaired by Secretary of State and the acknowledgement the police handling of communications surrounding the Gatwick Airport drone sighting as a “mess-up
- In a Sky interview Paul Gait and Elaine Kirk, who were released without charge, said their “privacy and identity” had been “completely exposed” after being named in the media and their home searched.
- The Minister for Security and Economic Crime Ben Wallace has issued a statement praising the work of the police, airport operators and armed forces personnel
- Separately, the Home Office posted on social media animations of the do’s and don’ts of flying drones
- We continue to stay in close contact with the other government departments and agencies involved in the response.

BATTLE RHYTHM

21st December 2018:

- 07:00 – DfT SitRep 5 inputs deadline
- 07:40 – SoS interview on BBC Breakfast
- 08:00 – DfT SitRep 5 issued
- 08:10 – SoS interview on Today
- 08:30 – Cross government coordination call
- [REDACTED]
- TBC – SoS media interview
- [REDACTED]
- 13:00 – DfT SitRep 6 inputs deadline
- 14:00 – DfT SitRep 6
- [REDACTED]
- 18:30 – Cross Government Coordination Call
- 19:30 – DfT SitRep 7 inputs deadline
- 21:00 – DfT SitRep 7 issued

22nd December 2018

[REDACTED]

23rd December 2018

[REDACTED]

24th December 2018

25th December 2018

26th December 2018

27th December 2018

28th December 2018