



Department
for Transport

Situation Report 4

Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

SITREP DETAILS

Date	20/12/2018
Time	23:15 [Information Cut Off: 22:30]
Contact	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED] tsoc@dft.gov.uk

HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick airport remains closed until further notice, with Easyjet and Virgin have cancelled all remaining flights for this evening.
- Police and [REDACTED] are continuing. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Gatwick airport are reviewing contingency plans including the option of cancelling flights tomorrow.
- Disruption at Gatwick airport continues, with arrangements in place to return passengers back to the original destination..
- This incident is being regarded by industry as malicious attempt to disrupt operations.
- There is a planned interview with the Secretary of State on BBC Breakfast tomorrow morning (Friday 21st December 2018)

AVIATION IMPACTS

- 760 flights today were cancelled affecting 110,000 passengers. Plus 10,000 from last night.
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Congestion in LGW terminals has decreased as passengers have gone home or into accommodation. Gatwick airport staff are still floor walking and focussing on vulnerable passengers and ensuring hotels are arranged where necessary.
- Airlines are already cancelling flights for the first wave tomorrow (21st December 2018 06:00 – 09:00) and some of the LGW schedule expected to

run from other airports. Decisions will be taken in next few hours, along with decisions as to whether the airport can reopen in the morning.

- LGW are formulating a media plan for tomorrow (21st December 2018) and likely to be in place by 03:00, ahead of starting to inform passengers at 04:00.
- Airlines are working closely with the CAA to risk assess if operations are safe to continue while the drone remains in the air. This is dependant on knowing the size and weight of the drone and safety will be proitised over operations.
- DfT have lifted night-flight restriction for Stansted, Gatwick and Heathrow.
- Airlines have made transport arrangements and hotel accommodation for displaced passengers.
- Over a 130,000 passengers are expected to fly in or out of Gatwick tomorrow (21st December 2018).

OTHER AIRPORTS

- Airlines are moving a small number of flights to other airports - Ryanair have diverted flights to Stansted, IAG diverted flights to London Heathrow, and EasyJet have diverted flights to Luton.

AVIATION SECURITY

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

DRONES POLICY

- Endangering an aircraft carries a penalty of an unlimited fine or 5 years in prison.
- There are many laws in place for how drones must be flown including not within 50 metres of people, buildings or 150 meters congested area. These carry penalties of £2.5k.
- As of 30th July 2018 it is illegal to fly drones above 400ft or within 1km of an airport boundary (unless you have permission from the CAA or Air Traffic Control respectively). Penalties of up to £2.5k apply.

OTHER MODE IMPACTS

Rail:

- Trains are continuing to run to Gatwick Airport with no operational issues or cancellations.
- Messaging has been communicated to passengers on stations along the routes to Gatwick airport, including London Victoria and Clapham Junction advising of the disruption.

- No passenger handling issues reported by GTR at Gatwick Airport station
- Passengers are being strongly advised not to travel to Gatwick through their websites, announcements and social media. This approach appears to be working.
- Ticket acceptance is in place – including allowing passengers with today's tickets to travel tomorrow and ticket acceptance to Luton and Edinburgh.

OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

- DfT are liaising with Home Office OSCT and FCO.
- [REDACTED]

MEDIA AND COMMS

- The disruption at Gatwick continues to run widely across broadcast and print and remains the top story on bulletins and news websites.
- Reports are still leading on the news that the army has been called in to hunt down the drone pilot(s) and reports that flights will be cancelled until at least 06.00am tomorrow morning (Friday 21 December).
- The story is set to appear on the majority of tomorrow's front pages, with the Telegraph attributing blame for the drones to eco-warriors.
- The Secretary of State will be doing a morning media round with BBC Breakfast and BBC Radio 4's Today programme. We also received a call from Sky regarding COBR – we directed to the Cabinet Office.

BATTLE RHYTHM

20th December 2018:

■ [REDACTED]

21st December 2018:

■ [REDACTED]

