



Department  
for Transport

# Situation Report (12)

## Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

### SITREP DETAILS

Date	27/12/2018
Time	18:00 [Information Cut Off: 17:00]
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 a 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, but will monitor any operational issues that may arise.

**ACTION:** DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT to develop a plan for lifting nightflight restrictions in the event of a repeat of a similar incident or related disruption (noting the Birmingham Air Traffic Control incident).

- It is within the gift of the Secretary of State for Transport to lift nightflight restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, as was carried out due to the closure of Gatwick caused by the drone incident. It also occurred in the days after Gatwick was reopened. At other airports, nightflight restrictions will have been agreed locally, often as part of the planning application. Manchester Airport has confirmed that although they have a nightflight quota, there is flexibility within this to deal with incidents and diversions and that it is likely to be the case across most airports.

### 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]
- [REDACTED]

#### POLICE OPERATIONS – HOME OFFICE

- Two suspects have been released without charge and there are **currently** no **significant** lines of further **inquiry** on this investigation. **Sussex Police will reappeal for information today (27 December) through the offer of the reward by Gatwick Airport.** 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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## MEDIA AND COMMS

- The coverage of the incident has been reignited by the sale of the airport to Vinci Airport and Cressida Dick's comments on BBC Radio 4 Today - in her interview she was asked about the investigation whether or not the Met Police would take control of the investigation.
- Separately, the Daily Telegraph asked if the department will move forward the CAA's November 2019 drone project in light of the Gatwick incident.
- We continue to stay in close contact with the other government departments and agencies involved in the response.

**ACTION:** HOME OFFICE to action clear deterrence communication messaging around the range of enforcement and sentencing for such criminal activity, with DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT feeding in material on the DfT specific offence.

- 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

### 26<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[REDACTED]

### 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[REDACTED]

### 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[REDACTED]

