



Department  
for Transport

# Situation Report (9)

## Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

### SITREP DETAILS

<b>Date</b>	23/12/2018
<b>Time</b>	20:00 [Information Cut Off: 19:00]
<b>Contact</b>	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick is operating at normal capacity with no cancellations today.
- Sussex Police are confident that the relevant resourcing and capabilities are in place to respond to any drone sightings over the next 5 – 10 days.
- 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 lines of inquiry. No other suspects have been identified and Sussex Police are continuing to pursue their investigation.

### AVIATION IMPACTS

- Gatwick is operating at normal capacity with no cancellations today. As of 17:00, there has been 200 arrivals and 273 departures so far. There was one Virgin Atlantic flight which returned and landed safely at Gatwick earlier because of an engine vibration.
- Over the Christmas period, the following flights are scheduled at Gatwick airport:  
  
24th December: 634 flights scheduled with 102,996 passengers  
  
25th December: 179 flights scheduled with 34,262 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.

### OTHER AIRPORTS

- Birmingham's Air Traffic Control has lost its electronic flight data system. As a result, aircraft cannot currently land or depart. An engineer is on the way and DfT will continue to liaise with Birmingham airport to understand the impacts. All other airports are reporting no problems.

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### AVIATION SECURITY

- Early impacts to airport emergency receipt stands have now been resolved meaning [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

■ [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. No other suspects have been identified and Sussex Police are continuing to pursue their investigation.

■ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[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
- There is industrial action on South Western Railways by the RMT Union today, which is providing a reduced service on some routes including to Clapham Junction (where passengers change to go on to Gatwick). Passengers are advised to check before they travel, however, no specific issues are being reported.

- 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

- [illegible]

## 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 news that the couple arrested on Friday have been released without charge, and what this means for the investigation. Media have also picked up on police comments this afternoon that it's possible there may not have been a drone at all, acknowledging that they have been relying on eye witness accounts; we understand the police are preparing a clarification of this.
- A small number of Sunday papers today followed up the Times' inaccurate claim that drone legislation had been delayed due to Brexit; DfT press office has been rebutting this throughout the day. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- We have also taken a large number of calls from media asking about next steps in the investigation following the release of the couple arrested; and for more detail on counter-drone technology. We have guided journalists that these are matters for the police and Home Office. Media have also asked if ministers are meeting tomorrow, and for our media plans over the next 24 hours – currently we do not plan to do anything proactive, but we will advise if that changes.
- Following the officials' meeting, we have asked Home Office and Sussex Police to provide us with lines around withdrawal of policing assets, [REDACTED] and enforcement; however, in the event of media calls about this we will continue to refer to police and Home Office.
- We continue to stay in close contact with the other government departments and agencies involved in the response.

## BATTLE RHYTHM

### 21<sup>st</sup> 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~~
- ~~[REDACTED]~~
- ~~[REDACTED]~~
- ~~TBC – SoS media interview~~
- ~~[REDACTED]~~

- 13:00 – DfT SitRep 6 inputs deadline
- 14:00 – DfT SitRep 6
- 15:00 – Communications Director Forum
- 17:00 – Ministerial Call (DfT, Home Office and MoD SoS's)
- [REDACTED]
- 19:30 – DfT SitRep 7 inputs deadline
- 21:00 – DfT SitRep 7 issued

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

- 08:30 – DfT SitRep 8 inputs
- 09:30 – DfT SitRep 8 issued

■ [REDACTED]

**23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

■ [REDACTED]

- 19:00 – DfT SitRep 9 inputs
- 20:00 – DfT SitRep 9 issued

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

- 9:00 – Ministerial call
- 19:00 – DfT SitRep 10 inputs due
- 20:00 – DfT SitRep 10 issued

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

- 19:00 – DfT SitRep 11 inputs due
- 20:00 – DfT SitRep 11 issued

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

- 19:00 – DfT SitRep 12 inputs due
- 20:00 – DfT SitRep 12 issued