



Department  
for Transport

# Situation Report 5

## Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

### SITREP DETAILS

Date	21/12/2018
Time	08:00 [Information Cut Off: 07:00]
Contact	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED]

### HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick airport has now reopened. [REDACTED]
- Disruption at Gatwick airport will continue throughout the day, 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.

### AVIATION IMPACTS

- Gatwick airport has now re-opened. Both arrivals and departures have commenced.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 126,000 passengers are due to fly today from Gatwick today, an increase of 16,000 on yesterday. Advise for passengers remains to check with their airlines before travelling.
- This equates to 765 flights scheduled at LGW today (arrivals and departures) with 140 of those being cancelled at present. Further cancellations are expected.
- Some of the remaining scheduled flights are expected to be diverted to other London airports (STN/LHR/LTN).
- Airlines current priority is recovering from the disruption, particularly accommodating long haul inbound traffic this morning. Easyjet have cancelled

all flights before 09:00 to help clear yesterdays backlog.

- [REDACTED]
- 760 flights were cancelled yesterday affecting 110,000 passengers. Plus 10,000 from Wednesday evening (19<sup>th</sup> Dec). A proportion of passengers were able to book onto alternative flights from other airports.
- DfT have lifted night-flight restriction for Stansted, Gatwick and Heathrow.
- Airlines have made transport arrangements and hotel accommodation for displaced passengers. For example, Easyjet have advised customers on cancelled flights that they are entitled to a free of charge transfer to an alternative flight and hotel accommodation if required. They will also reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by passengers who arrange their own comparable alternative transport.
- Over a 130,000 passengers are expected to fly in or out of Gatwick today (21<sup>st</sup> December 2018).

#### OTHER AIRPORTS

- LHR reported no impacts on their operation yesterday. 10 diversions were accepted and 4 more planned for today.
- All Ryanair flights are operating from STN today. Some of Easyjet's LGW scheduled flights are operate from LTN.

- [REDACTED]

#### 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

- There have been no further calls to FCO's Consular Contact Centre further to the previous 4 calls from British people overseas affected by the incident.

[REDACTED]

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

[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 online and on broadcast are starting to lead on the fact that Gatwick has partially reopened for limited flights.
- The story is dominating the front pages of the national papers. The Telegraph and the Sun speculate that an eco-warrior is responsible for the incident. The Times and the Metro focus on the choice to bring in the Army while the Guardian leads on calls for new controls on drones. The Mail and the Express questioning how a drone was able to cause such chaos.
- The Secretary of State is doing a morning media round with BBC Breakfast and BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

## BATTLE RHYTHM

21<sup>st</sup> December 2018:

[REDACTED]

