



Department  
for Transport

# Situation Report (8)

## Gatwick Airport Disruption: Drones

### SITREP DETAILS

Date	22/12/2018
Time	09:30 [Information Cut Off: 08:30]
Contact	Transport Security Operations Centre (TSOC) [REDACTED]

### HEADLINE SUMMARY

- Gatwick intends to run a full schedule today, however there will still be some disruption due to previous delays and cancellations.
- Passenger flows are fine as Gatwick also temporarily suspended check-in and security for the duration of flight suspensions.
- This incident is being regarded by industry as malicious attempt to disrupt operations. Police are working to identify potential suspects and have made 2 arrests overnight in relation to this incident. Searches will take place this morning, and the people arrested will be interviewed.

### AVIATION IMPACTS

- Yesterday 876 flights took place with 239 cancelled and a small amount diverted to other airports. A significant proportion of passengers managed to fly.
- Only 4 cancellations are planned today with 124,000 passengers scheduled to fly (758 flights).
- Airline resourcing is good although there are a high number of displaced aircraft so may be schedule changes. Advise for passengers remains to check with their airlines before travelling as there will be residual delays as a result of the previous few days disruption.
- BA are currently experiencing 1-3 hour delays.
- Passenger Welfare- around 70 passengers were in the terminals overnight due to yesterdays disruption. Terminals are busy again today and LGW have additional teams in place to support passengers welfare.
- [REDACTED]

#### OTHER AIRPORTS

- All other airports are reporting no problems.

- [REDACTED]

#### AVIATION SECURITY

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

#### POLICE OPERATIONS – HOME OFFICE

- 2 arrests have been made in relation of the UAV incidents at Gatwick. They have been arrested for Disrupt services of civil aviation aerodrome to endanger / likely to endanger safety of operations / persons.
- Searches will be taking place this morning and the persons arrested will be interviewed.

- [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.

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

#### **MEDIA AND COMMS**

- Broadcast bulletins on BBC Breakfast, the Today Programme and Sky are leading on the development overnight that Sussex Police has arrested two people.
- All are reporting that the airport intends to run a full schedule, but there is still some disruption which is a hangover from the drone incidents. And that the police and military will stay at the airport to ensure the runway stays open as the threat from drones still remains at the highest level.
- There is no one from Gatwick, the Police or DfT up on bids this morning, with Gatwick and Sussex Police having released the below statements. The Shadow Transport Secretary Andy McDonald was interviewed on the Today Programme alongside a former army intelligence officer. The former army officer was helpful in explaining the challenges in bringing an end to the incident. Andy McDonald called for drones and criticised the government for its apparent lack of contingency planning for an incident like this.
- The incident has led to a large number of articles in the newspapers with front page stories featuring in the Times, Mail, Guardian, I and Independent.
- The Times makes a number of claims against the Department and the SoS, claiming that the drones bill 'was put on hold' because of Brexit pressure. And

that the Bill would have controlled the use of drones near airports and included the deployment of a counter drone system capable of jamming the devices.

- There is also coverage in the Times, FT, Mirror and Mail that the SoS has called on insurance companies to reimburse their customers.

## BATTLE RHYTHM

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

[REDACTED]

### 22<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]