

1. **INTERVIEW SUMMARY - Gatwick - Chief Supt Jason Tingley , Sussex Police - Sky - Sunday 23 December 2018**

Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley, Sussex Police: *Why were this couple arrested in the first place?* We were acting on information passed to us by a member of the public and I'm really pleased that we responded to that efficiently and effectively. Over the last day or so we have been meticulously investigating their involvement and I am satisfied now that they are no longer suspects in this investigation. *Their faces are on the front pages of many newspapers - what more could be done to prevent people being outed like this?* In normal procedures, Sussex Police will never disclose identification of anyone arrested for any investigation and on this occasion we haven't. We have worked really hard to keep those identities confidential. It sometimes hinders our investigation when details are disclosed to the public whilst we still have people in custody. *What support is being offered to this couple?* We have two officers with them when they left custody. Obviously there is a duty of care to them and we provided reassurance to them to make sure their are safely transported back to their home address. We are in contact with them and will support them going forward. *How is the investigation going?* Even while those two people were in custody, we have followed a number of lines of inquiry. We are also following up a number of leads in terms of persons of interest. And yesterday we recovered a damaged drone close to the perimeter of Gatwick Airport and we will do everything we can to forensically examine that drone - and that has been expedited as I speak to you now. *How confident are you that you will find those responsible?* We are doing everything we can to find those responsible. An investigation like this is significant. I want to say thank you to all the agencies and other police forces that are currently assisting us as well as the members of the public who have supported us. I would urge them to make further contact with us, firstly if they know anything with regards to the identity of the perpetrator or if they have any information about sightings of the drone. *What are the challenges involved with detection at airports?* There are a number of challenges. Firstly, managing and processing the data and information received from members of the public, and looking at things like CCTV. We have specialist support from the military and other agencies and I am confident we have everything in place to give ourselves the best opportunity to detect and arrest the perpetrators of these serious criminal offences. *What measures are in place to prevent this happening again?* We have strong partnership arrangements at Gatwick Airport. We are working with the Dept of Transport and other agencies. That will be part of the plan for both now and the future. My priority from a police perspective is to make sure we have the tactical response to any future sightings of drone activity at Gatwick Airport. And secondly how we respond to the investigation in terms of the intelligence processes we have in place and all the information we are receiving from the public. I would urge members of the public, if they have information regarding those perpetrators or perpetrator, to please contact us. *Motives?* We have been keeping an open mind regarding motivation. *Do you believe those responsible are in the area?* There are a number of assumptions whether someone is operating remotely far from the airport or working close to the perimeter. We are keeping an open mind. We are working on the forensic opportunities that that drone presents and that will be fed into our investigations team (Sky 1245 i/v).

2. MONITORING: SKY NEWS - GATWICK LATEST

Hi all,

Sky news interviewed Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley from Sussex Police on the latest developments.

In his interview he confirmed a damaged drone had been recovered yesterday. He also confirmed the police were working with the DfT and agencies to prevent this happening again.

Please see below for full readout.

Thanks, XXX

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Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley, Sussex Police: *Why were this couple arrested in the first place?* We were acting on information passed to us by a member of the public and I'm really pleased that we responded to that efficiently and effectively. Over the last day or so we have been meticulously investigating their involvement and I am satisfied now that they are no longer suspects in this investigation.

Their faces are on the front pages of many newspapers - what more could be done to prevent people being outed like this? In normal procedures, Sussex Police will never disclose identification of anyone arrested for any investigation and on this occasion we haven't. We have worked really hard to keep those identities confidential. It sometimes hinders our investigation when details are disclosed to the public whilst we still have people in custody.

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How confident are you that you will find those responsible? We are doing everything we can to find those responsible. An investigation like this is significant. I want to say thank you to all the agencies and other police forces that are currently assisting us as well as the members of the public who have supported us. I would urge them to make further contact with us, firstly if they know anything with regards to the identity of the perpetrator or if they have any information about sightings of the drone.

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What measures are in place to prevent this happening again? We have strong partnership arrangements at Gatwick Airport. We are working with the DfT and other agencies. That will be part of the plan for both now and the future. My priority from a police perspective is to make sure we have the tactical response to any future sightings of drone activity at Gatwick Airport. And secondly how we respond to the investigation in terms of the intelligence processes we have in place and all the information we are receiving from the public. I would urge members of the public, if they have information regarding those perpetrators or perpetrator, to please contact us.

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Do you believe those responsible are in the area? There are a number of assumptions whether someone is operating remotely far from the airport or working close to the perimeter. We are keeping an open mind. We are working on the forensic opportunities that that drone presents and that will be fed into our investigations team.

XXX XXX | Press Officer, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX GMH | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 23 December 2018 11:37

Subject: MONITORING: BBC NEWS - GATWICK LATEST

Hi all,

The BBC are reporting the man and woman held in connection with the disruption at Gatwick have been released without charge.

Please see below for full readout.

Thanks, XXX

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We are hearing from Sussex Police that two people arrested in conjunction with the widespread disruption of flights at Gatwick through the illegal use of drones have been released without charge. Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley says both people "have fully cooperated with our inquiries" and also says "I am satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick. It is important to remember when people are arrested, in an effort to make further inquiries, it does not mean they are guilty of an offence and Sussex Police would not seek to make their identity public". They have fully cooperated, say the police, and they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents. The Police are also asking for the public's continued support into their inquiries by reporting anything suspicious or if they have any information about those drone incidents.

XXX XXX | Press Officer, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX GMH | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 22 December 2018 18:22

Subject: Re: MONITORING: Gatwick latest - evening news coverage

BULLETIN: BBC, ITV and Channel 4 News evening news programmes

ANALYSIS: All bulletins led on the latest at Gatwick, with all coverage opening and focusing on the arrest of two individuals who live near the airport. All of the bulletins also spoke to passengers with a range of vox pops hearing from upset and angry passengers, as well as brief updates on the current level of disruption.

ITV also featured an interview with the Crawley MP Henry Smith who felt it was too long before the military was called in.

BBC and ITV did live reports at the end of the packages, which focused on the latest in the police investigation.

However, the Channel 4 coverage moved on to how this was allowed to happen. It included accusations from the Shadow Transport Secretary Andy McDonald that the government did not properly assess the risks of drones and has been slow to legislate.

Channel 4 included "strenuous denials" from DfT that this was the case.

Channel 4 also included an interview with the local MP Henry Smith. He said he raised concerns with the government in the past after previous incursions by drones. He said he is concerned that more stringent legislation was not put in place to stop this from happening.

XXX XXX

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On 22 Dec 2018, at 16:23, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

ISSUE: Gatwick Latest

PUBLICATION: All major broadcasters and newspapers/websites. Copied below are BBC, Sky, Telegraph and Guardian.

ANALYSIS: The main focus of all the coverage is on the arrest of a 47 year-old man and a 54 year-old woman, with references to ongoing disruption. Towards the end of its coverage, the Guardian suggests it has turned into a political row, in light of Andy McDonald's previous comments, but this was only a very minor reference at the end.

STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE: The police are quoted as saying the investigation remains ongoing and they are appealing for information from the public.

Gatwick is warning ongoing disruption as a result of the recent closures.

There are also plenty of affected passengers quoted in the coverage, expressing disappointment about their situation.

BBC: Gatwick drones: Man and woman from Crawley held

A 47-year-old man and 54-year-old woman from Crawley are being questioned in connection with multiple drone sightings that brought Gatwick Airport to a standstill.

Flights were grounded for more than 36 hours when drones were first spotted close to the runway on Wednesday night.

The airport has since reopened and flights were operating on schedule, but there were still long queues and some knock-on delays, a spokesman said.

The pair remain in police custody.

They were arrested on Friday evening and were being questioned on suspicion of disrupting civil aviation, "to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons", Sussex Police said.

The force said it was deploying "a range of tactics" to prevent further incursions from drones following the arrests.

A range of strategies were in place in case any further unmanned aircraft were seen inside the airport perimeter, it added.

Supt James Collis said: "We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice."

The airport said it aimed to run "a full schedule" of 757 flights on Saturday, carrying 124,484 passengers.

A Gatwick spokesman said: "Many people will be due to fly today and there will be longer delays perhaps.

"But broadly things are going in the right direction. By the end of the weekend, things should be back to normal."

Passengers have been warned to expect some delays and cancellations and advised to check with their airline before travelling to the airport.

About 1,000 aircraft were either cancelled or diverted and about 140,000 passengers disrupted during three days of disruption.

The airport was forced to shut its runway for spells on Wednesday and Friday and for all of Thursday.

The drones were first spotted at about 21:00 GMT on Wednesday.

Authorities finally regained control over the airfield after the Army deployed unidentified military technology to guard the area, reassuring the airport that it was safe enough to fly from about 06:00 on Friday.

The Israeli-developed Drone Dome system, which can detect drones using radar, is believed to have been used. It can jam communications between the drone and its operator, enabling authorities to take control of and land the device.

But John Murray, professor of robotics and autonomous systems at the University of Hull, told the BBC the problem with this system was "you can find the drone but not the person operating it".

"You can take the drone out of the sky but you won't capture the person and that's what you want to do.

"You can get a second-hand drone for between £200 and £300 so if you take it down, they can just go out and buy another one," he said.

The drones caused misery for travellers, with many sleeping on the airport floor as they searched for alternative routes to holidays and Christmas family gatherings.

Thousands of passengers returning to the UK were either stranded abroad or diverted to other UK airports.

A handful of flights due to arrive into Gatwick on Saturday were cancelled, according to the airport's website, including an easyJet service from Milan-Linate and a TUI flight from Bridgetown, Barbados.

A Gatwick spokesman said: "Safety is Gatwick's top priority and we are grateful for passengers' continued patience as we work to get them to their final destination in time for Christmas.

Tele: Gatwick airport drone chaos: Man, 47, and woman, 54, arrested in Crawley - latest live news updates

A man and a woman have been arrested in connection with the "criminal use of drones" which sparked chaos for three days at Gatwick Airport.

Sussex police said the 47-year-old man and 54-year-old woman, both from Crawley, were arrested in the town on suspicion of disrupting services of civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons.

They remained in custody on Saturday afternoon.

The arrests came as passengers braced for further disruption while the airport tried to recover from the turmoil.

Sussex Police said the people were arrested in the Gatwick area just after 10pm on Friday night.

Superintendent James Collis of Sussex Police said: "Our investigations are still ongoing, and our activities at the airport continue to build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones by deploying a range of tactics.

"We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice.

"The arrests we have made this evening are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm, every line of inquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

The arrests came after a witness said he saw a cyclist "frantically" packing away two drones away down a country lane near the airport.

Paul Motts, 52, said he saw a man in his 30s wearing hi-vis clothing and crouching over a drone in a country lane near the West Sussex airport on Thursday.

Mr Motts said the man had been trying to "get away as fast as he could" at the time Sussex Police combed the countryside to find the drone pilot.

He told the Sun newspaper: "I was delivering a parcel and drove past a suspicious man in fluorescent cycling gear crouching over a large drone which was all lit up. It looked like he was packing the drones away. Two minutes later we turned around and came across him cycling away.

"I expect he wanted to disassemble the drone as quickly as possible and get away as fast as he could."

The man had been standing over one 4ft drone and another 2ft device, Mr Motts reported.

Early on Saturday, Gatwick said flights would be operating but warned of further disruption.

"Our runway is open and we aim to run a full schedule on Saturday," it said on the website.

"Passengers should expect some delays and cancellations as we continue to recover our operations following three days of disruption and are advised to check with their airline before travelling to the airport."

A Gatwick spokesman said around 1,000 aircraft have been cancelled or diverted, affecting approximately 140,000 passengers, since Wednesday night.

The knock on effect of cancellations and delays was continuing to have an impact on Virgin Atlantic flights.

Its first flight of the day, to St Lucia and Tobago, took off an hour late, and three more flights were delayed soon after.

The 13:00 flight to Orlando has been delayed by two hours and the 12:15 to Cancun, Mexico is one hour behind schedule.

At the check in desks, children were being distracted by free candy canes handed out by staff.

Neil Martin, 48, from Ukfield, Sussex, who was travelling to Cancun with his wife and three daughters, was among those delayed.

He said: "An hour delay after everything that's happened is completely acceptable. I'm just glad we are going. Everyone has been really helpful so far and we're looking forward to getting away."

EasyJet's first 39 flights on Saturday all suffered delays, some by as much as nearly five hours.

Norwegian have had six of their 25 flights delayed.

The worst queues were in Gatwick's south terminal, where Thomas Cook saw all eight of their flights delayed on Saturday morning.

Lines of people continued to snake through the terminal and out into the train station ticket concourse.

Tom Hawkins and his family arrived early for their flight to Fuerteventura.

"We anticipated disruption so made sure to get here in good time," he said.

"Maybe they are short staffed after a busy few days, but I'm a lot more confident of getting away today than if I was travelling on Thursday."

Passengers have been told to check their insurance policies to ensure they were covered for "disruption" incidents and also to check how much they were covered for.

Some cheaper policies will only reimburse for medical emergencies and even those with disruption cover might have modest limits that do not cover the full cost of the incident.

Prior to the arrests, police had suggested the net was closing in on the drone attacker, confirming they were investigating "persons of interest".

Detectives were understood to have drawn up a shortlist of potential culprits after the pilot gave vital clues away by audaciously flying the drone right up to the air traffic control tower.

In a move known as "buzzing the tower", it emerged the perpetrator had taunted airport staff by circling the drone around the building and flashing its lights, an industry source told The Telegraph.

A detailed description of the drone, provided by witnesses, meant experts were able to determine the make and model of the machine, which is only available from a handful of locations in the UK.

The heightened level of panic around the airport was demonstrated on Friday evening when all flights had to be temporarily suspended after a drone was reportedly spotted in the air.

Military equipment was used on Friday to stop further drone disruption while a range of tactics are in place if any unmanned aircraft are seen inside the perimeter.

One piece of equipment believed to have been deployed at the airport is the Israeli-developed Drone Dome system, which can detect drones using radar.

It can also jam communications between the drone and its operator, enabling authorities to take control of and land the drone.

The crisis has developed into a political row, with the Government being accused of failing to approve cutting-edge technology.

Chris Grayling, the Transport Secretary, said: "This is an entirely new kind of threat and we're going to have to move very quickly.

"One of the things I intend to do very quickly indeed is convene discussions across all our airports. There are some systems now beginning to be introduced in some airports across the world that can have some impact."

SKY NEWS: The two people arrested over the "criminal use of drones" at Gatwick Airport are a 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman.

The pair, from Crawley in West Sussex - just a few miles from the airport - are being held on suspicion of disrupting an airport.

They were arrested at about 10pm on Friday, Sussex Police said.

The arrests were part of "ongoing investigations into the criminal use of drones which has severely disrupted flights in and out of Gatwick Airport", the force said.

"We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice," Superintendent James Collis added.

"The arrests we have made are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm. Every line of enquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers."

He added that police are deploying tactics to "build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones".

Many flights are still being delayed after three days of disruption, which began on Wednesday night.

Hundreds of flights were grounded over the three days, and [more than 100,000 Christmas travellers](#) were affected.

Services resumed on Friday morning but had to be temporarily suspended on Friday evening after another drone was spotted near the airfield just after 5pm.

Flights resumed again on Friday night.

By Saturday, the airport's timetables were slowly getting back to normal but long queues and some delays were still seen as airlines tries to clear the backlog.

A Gatwick spokesman said: "Broadly, things are going in the right direction.

"By the end of the weekend, things should be back to normal."

The airport had earlier said that military measures in place meant it was safe to fly.

The Shorrocks family from Oxford was hoping to travel to Austria for a skiing trip on Saturday.

As they waited in the departures queue, Vivienne Shorrocks said she was "relieved" to have avoided the disruption late last week.

But she described the possible loss of their skiing holiday as a "middle class problem", adding: "In perspective some people have suffered real losses by not getting where they want to go to be with family."

David Shorrocks joked the drone drama was a "nice distraction from Brexit".

The airport faced a total shutdown on Thursday and part of Wednesday night when drones repeatedly violated its perimeter.

Some passengers described freezing conditions as they [slept on benches or on the airport floor](#). Conservative peer Lord Ashcroft offered a £10,000 reward for information that led to the arrest and charge of the drone operator

Gatwick is Britain's second busiest airport and serves more than 43 million passengers a year.

GUARDIAN: Man and woman arrested over drone disruption at Gatwick

A man and a woman have been arrested in connection with the "criminal use of drones" which has caused widespread disruption to flights at Gatwick airport, police have said.

[In a statement released in the early hours of Saturday](#), Sussex police said the arrests were made in Gatwick area just after 10pm on Friday night.

Gatwick airport said on Saturday morning that it was open for flights but urged passengers to check with their airline before travelling.

"Our runway is open and we aim to run a full schedule – 757 flights scheduled today, carrying 124,484 passengers," a spokesman said.

"Safety is Gatwick's top priority and we are grateful for passengers' continued patience as we work to get them to their final destination in time for Christmas."

The airport was plunged into chaos on Wednesday night when drones spotted hovering near the runway forced hundreds of flights to be cancelled, delaying and stranding thousands of passengers.

Police and military experts were deployed to search for the operators of the drones, which reappeared near the airport every time the authorities tried to reopen the runways.

Airlines scrambled to board passengers while the airport was reopened on Friday. But it was closed again on Friday afternoon when the drones reappeared. Military measures reassured operators that it was safe to reopen the runway shortly afterwards.

Superintendent James Collis said: "Our investigations are still ongoing, and our activities at the airport continue to build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones by deploying a range of tactics.

"We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice.

"The arrests we have made this evening are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm, every line of inquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers."

Anyone with information was asked to call police on 101.

A range of tactics have been used to combat the drones but few details have been released. One piece of equipment believed to have been deployed at the airport is the Israeli-developed Drone Dome system, which can detect drones using radar. It can also jam communications between the drone and its operator, enabling authorities to take control of and land the drone.

Speaking on Friday, Gatwick chief executive Stewart Wingate said the drone flights were "highly targeted" and have "been designed to close the airport and bring maximum disruption in the run up to Christmas".

He added: "These events obviously highlight a wider strategic challenge for aviation in this country which we need to address together with speed - the aviation industry, government and all the other relevant authorities.

"It cannot be right that drones can close a vital part of our national infrastructure in this way. This is obviously a relatively new technology and we need to think through together the right solutions to make sure it cannot happen again."

A Gatwick spokesman said around 1,000 aircraft had been cancelled or diverted, affecting approximately 140,000 passengers, since Wednesday night.

A handful of flights due to arrive into Gatwick on Saturday have been cancelled, according to the airport's website, including an easyJet service from Milan-Linate and a TUI flight from Bridgetown, Barbados.

The arrests could bring relief for passengers angry at the ongoing disruption on Friday.

One woman due to fly to Sicily on Thursday said she was considering renting a car and driving there after her second flight in two days was cancelled following the fresh sighting.

Laura Cammarata, 27, who lives in London, was due to travel to the island with her partner for Christmas. She said she was frustrated after their flight rescheduled from Thursday to Friday was cancelled.

Cammarata said: "We did the whole process again, we got the train, we started queuing up and at some point they said it's cancelled again.

"We're trying to re-book and they're saying they can't book us on."

Her partner Giuseppe Alia, 28, also from London, said: "They should have some contingency to get people to other airports, I understand it's not their fault but they should force airlines to collaborate in this situation."

Mike, from London, had his flight cancelled on Friday and will miss his connection to Ghana. "We're in limbo. We don't actually know when we'll be flying out at all because we haven't been promised a rescheduled flight, we haven't been promised any further information, any compensation. Nothing at all."

The government on Friday denied accusations that it had been slow to combat the threat from drones, and had delayed plans to introduce laws to regulate their use.

Shadow transport spokesman Andy McDonald said the government had been too slow to act, despite growing concern over increasing numbers of near misses between drones and manned airports.

The Times reported that transport secretary Chris Grayling had shelved plans to introduce legislation amid pressure on his department, with civil servants being diverted to prepare for Brexit.

But a department for transport spokesman said the claims were "totally inaccurate"

[<image001.jpg>](#)

XXX XXX
Senior Press Officer, Communications Directorate
XXX, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR
XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
[Follow us on twitter @transportgovuk](#)

3. RE: Call this afternoon – background (Plus 2 attachments within Annex A and B)

Hi XXX,

Please see attached the invited attendees list. Also please find attached and below the agenda.

Dial in number for all participants: XXXXXXXX

Conference code: XXXXXXXX

Agenda:

1. Update on police investigation – Police to lead
2. Update on aviation operations – DfT to lead
3. Update on current (and potential future) deployment of HMG capability – Home Office and MOD to cover
4. Update on airport readiness – DfT to lead

Myself and XXX XXX will be on mute, taking notes and actions.

Best regards,

XXX

**XXX XXX | Response and Resilience Manager, Civil Contingencies Response and Preparedness (CCRP), Department for Transport
XXX| XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX**

Sent: 23 December 2018 13:24

Subject: Re: Call this afternoon - background

Grateful if some can urgently confirm who will be on the call and whether an agenda has been sent out to everyone.

XXX

Sent from my iPhone

On 23 Dec 2018, at 12:53, Natalie Golding <natalie.golding@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Just to bring everyone up to speed, a call is being arranged for 2pm today following a request from Cabinet Office (XXX XXX), who will be dialling in for CCS) to make sure they are fully sighted on all the activity that DfT, MOD, HO and the Police have been carrying out since the last drone sighting on Friday/

When I spoke to XXX earlier, he mentioned No 10 and CDL in particular feeling anxious about whether the situation is being gripped. He's keen on some specific information including:

- number of flights due on Christmas Day and Boxing Day;
- the ability of depts. to respond over Christmas (he specifically cited the issues we originally had getting information from the police. I pushed back very firmly, pointing out that we had pursued that information from the start, and have now resolved it, with regular updates coming through. I also reiterated that we had people on call and working on this over Christmas);
-
-

Thought that would be useful background – reading between the lines it seems as though CDL's office have used their usual lines of inquiry into CCS / CO rather than contacting us as lead dept as there was nothing XXX mentioned that we weren't already aware of or working on.

I think it didn't help that the 1030 phone call agreed as an action out of yesterday's call was subsequently cancelled – I suspect that had it taken place it would have been timed to alleviate most, if not all of his concerns.

I will follow up with him post incident on how CO and the centre raise concerns to make sure they get the assurance they need, when CCS isn't leading the response?

Natalie

[<image001.png>](#)

Natalie Golding
Deputy Director Head of TSOC, TS-COR
XXX, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR
XXXXXXX
[Follow us on twitter @transportgovuk](#)

4. RE: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex Police)

I'm sure everyone has this, but sharing Sussex Police lines on the arrests for completeness. This is now being widely reported on broadcast media.

Sussex Pol lines:-

Two people arrested in conjunction with the widespread disruption of flights at Gatwick Airport through the illegal use of drones have been released without charge on Sunday (23 December).

Sussex Police Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley said: "Both people have fully co-operated with our enquiries and I am satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick.

"It is important to remember that when people are arrested in an effort to make further enquiries it does not mean that they are guilty of an offence and Sussex Police would not seek to make their identity public.

"Our inquiry continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and we continue to actively follow lines of investigation.

"We ask for the public's continued support by reporting anything suspicious, contacting us with any information in relation to the drone incidents at Gatwick."

Gatwick Airport Limited has offered a £50,000 reward through Crimestoppers, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the criminal act that disrupted flights.

If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers website](#). Payout on the reward will be made only if the information is given to Crimestoppers first.

**XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX**

Sent: 22 December 2018 18:46

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Gatwick - are you able to share a readout of Stewart Wingate's interview with the Sunday Times please? Thanks.

XXX

XXX XXX

XXXXXXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 12:56, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@gatwickairport.com> wrote:

Hi XXX – from Gatwick perspective, we have stopped performing broadcast interviews, reflecting the fact that the airport is moving toward a normal operation.

Multiple broadcast crews remain on the airport and we are furnishing them with updates along the lines copied directly below, responding to requests for more information on a case by case. We do not plan to issue any further statements at this stage.

We are trying to not get drawn on the question of drone measures – as our focus is on getting the schedule back to normal – but if asked, stick close to our lines, which are included in our reactive statement below.

XXX

Update from Gatwick Airport:

Our runway is open and we aim to run a full schedule on Saturday 22 December.

757 flights are scheduled today, carrying 124, 484 passengers.

Passengers should expect some delays and cancellations as we continue to recover our operations following three days of disruption and are advised to check with their airline before travelling to the airport.

Safety is Gatwick's top priority and we are grateful for passengers' continued patience as we work to get them to their final destination in time for Christmas.

Sent: 22 December 2018 12:37

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

At AOA, we're starting to get some broadcast requests through. Can I check what others are doing - is anyone being put up from government, for example?

Looks like we're very much in the territory of "should airports/government have done more" and we're not very keen to get drawn on that. But would be good to see what others are doing.

--

XXX XXX

Senior Public Affairs & PR Manager

Airport Operators Association

M: XXXXXXXX

E: XXX@aoa.org.uk

Sent with [Outlook](#) for iOS

Verzonden: zaterdag, december 22, 2018 2:43 AM

Onderwerp: Re: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

A Gatwick Spokesperson said:

These arrests are a matter for Sussex Police.

Gatwick Airport's assessment of the risk posed by deliberate drone activity remains at the highest level and we continue to work with our police and government agency partners to mitigate this risk.

The safety of our passengers remains Gatwick's top priority. We are grateful for passengers' continued patience as we work to get as many of them as possible to their final destination in time for Christmas.

Final Police Statement:

Superintendent James Collis said “As part of our ongoing investigations into the criminal use of drones which has severely disrupted flights in and out of Gatwick Airport, Sussex Police made two arrests just after 10pm on 21 December.

“Our investigations are still on-going, and our activities at the airport continue to build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones, by deploying a range of tactics.

“We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice.

“The arrests we have made this evening are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm, every line of enquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers.

“Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report online or call [101](#) quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial [999](#) immediately.”

XXX XXX

XXXXXXXXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 18:26, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@gatwickairport.com> wrote:

Latest line. Runway has reopened:

“Flights have now resumed at Gatwick following a reported drone in the area. While we investigated, airfield movements were suspended. This was a precautionary measure as safety remains our main priority. The military measures we have in place at the airport have provided us with the reassurance necessary that it is safe to re-open our airfield.”

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Dec 2018, at 17:54, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@gatwickairport.com> wrote:

Latest line from Gatwick:

We are hearing a report of another drone sighting which we are investigating. While we look into this we have taken the precaution of suspending operations on the runway. We will update you as soon as we have more information

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Dec 2018, at 17:46, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Gatwick - can you share your lines re closure and unconfirmed sighting?

Thanks,

XXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 17:00, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi all,

A number of updates for you.

Firstly, we have just shared a tweet from DfT Twitter highlighting the drone laws here: <https://twitter.com/transportgovuk/status/1076153465402019840> - please do amplify as you feel appropriate.

We will also be sharing a video at 10am tomorrow from @transportgovuk and would be grateful for any support you can give this over the weekend.

Secondly, we're expecting the Defence Secretary to appear in broadcast interviews from 6pm tonight – see below a couple of readouts.

Finally, I mentioned earlier the cross-government script that had been developed – please see below the top lines from this, which you may wish to use to inform your messaging.

Best wishes, XXX

CROSS GOVERNMENT SCRIPT

TOP LINES

- We feel for all the passengers facing so much disruption as a result of this criminal act, which is irresponsible and completely unacceptable. We sincerely hope that everybody affected makes it home in time for the festive season.
- These drones have been flown illegally, and the law couldn't be clearer that those found endangering aircraft could face up to five years in jail.
- This is an active criminal investigation, and the Police have a number of lines of enquiry. The Police are doing all they can to mitigate this threat and find those responsible, and have a range of measures in place.
- The Police are appealing to the public for any information about the drone operator – if you know who's responsible or have any information, please call 999 and quote ref 1350-19/12.
- We welcome the news that Gatwick Airport is now open and are working with a range of stakeholders, including airports, to ensure passengers can continue to travel safely.
- Restrictions have been lifted around other airports to try and get people away this weekend, and we remain in close contact with Gatwick Airport. We are keeping the situation under constant review.
- Drone technology is changing rapidly, and we are working to ensure our laws and enforcement capabilities are evolving at pace to meet new threats. We are working across government and together with police and private sector partners to enhance the technological response available to tackle drone incidents in future.
- If you or someone you know is planning on using a drone this festive season, please ensure that you do so safely and legally, without endangering others. Visit <https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code> for guidance.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

- This is a particularly challenging situation with a live investigation and search operation underway. We have increased our police presence and now have support from Surrey Police, the Met, and the military to ensure we are in the best possible position to act if the situation develops further.

- We do not want to go into the details of the capabilities of the technology that we now have on scene. We have looked at everything possible that we can deploy to mitigate this threat and we have a range of measures now which puts us in a much better position.
- The Police are appealing to the public for any information about the drone operator – if you know who's responsible or have any information, please call 999 and quote ref 1350-19/12.
- This behaviour was a criminal offence that which endangered airfield and aircraft and has kept people from their families over the first holiday weekend – it is punishable by up to five years in prison.
- These drones have been flown illegally, and the law couldn't be clearer that those found endangering aircraft could face up to five years in jail. This is a really significant offence, in terms of endangering airfield and aircraft, and there are big sentences available to us to give justice to all those affected.

TRAVEL IMPACT

- We welcome the news that Gatwick Airport is now open and are working with a range of stakeholders, including airports, to ensure passengers can continue to travel safely.
- To try and help affected passengers we've lifted restrictions around other airports so they can try and get people away this weekend. We are keeping the situation under constant review.
- We are also speaking to insurance companies to see what can be done to help passengers.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

- Latest legislation has made it illegal to fly drones above 400 feet and within one kilometre of an airport boundary. We are also taking steps to ensure all drone users register their drone and take a safety test so they are aware of the law. We have also recently consulted on extending police powers to deal with those misusing drones.
- Drones have huge potential benefits for society, but we need to ensure they're used safely. If you or someone you know is planning on using a drone this festive season, please ensure that you do so safely and legally, without endangering others. Visit <https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code> for guidance.

DEFENCE SECRETARY INTERVIEW READ-OUTS

BBC

Are you confident Gatwick incident won't happen again?

SofS: We always remain vigilant. Armed Forces there to be called on to help and support. That's what we did at Gatwick and what we'll do elsewhere.

Those who did this?

SofS: There will be severe penalties. They need to be caught and prosecuted.

SKY NEWS

SofS: Armed Forces always ready to assist and step in when requests come. Can't go into any detail on these matters.

SofS: We'll keep it there as long as civilian authorities want us to keep it there. Hope to be able to call it back when police comfortable.

SofS: Can't do it in every single airport. Not in a position where we're going to place in every airport across UK.

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 16:10

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

All, please see below a statement we've just issued to media.

Best wishes, XXX

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said

"I would like to echo the comments made by Gatwick airport and commend everyone for their hard work to ensure the airport is safely back open and getting passengers on the move again.

"Today I have had productive discussions with the ABI on reimbursing those passengers with insurance cover whose flights were delayed or cancelled.

"And I have had further conversations with the aviation industry about measures that can be put in place to help protect airports from similar incidents happening again."

Background

- The Transport Secretary had a call with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) this morning (Friday, 21 December), to discuss the disruption caused at Gatwick.
- The Secretary of State called for insurers to be fair in their treatment of claims made by passengers who had flights cancelled or delayed as a result of the incident.
- He received assurances from the ABI that passengers with travel disruption cover should be eligible for compensation if claims to airline companies, travel operators or credit card providers have not been successful, and that it is unlikely insurers will treat this as an extraordinary event.
- The Secretary of State also spoke with representatives from across the aviation industry including all UK major airports to discuss what future measures can be put in place
- He asked industry to share expertise in this area with the shared aim of protecting all UK airports
- The CAA has been asked to provide further guidance to industry on steps to take in a similar incident

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 16:04

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

FYI – CAA on-call contacts.

Best wishes,

XXX

CAA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

FESTIVE ON-CALL ROASTER

| December 2018 | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | AM |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Refer to colour code |
| 31 | | | | | | | PH |

| January 2019 | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | PH |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 23 | 13 | AM |

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|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| | XXX XXX | XXXXXXX |
| | XXX XXX | XXXXXXX |
| | XXX XXX | XXXXXXX |
| | XXX XXX | XXXXXXX (away from 25 Dec – 7 Jan) |

XXX XXX

<image001.gif>

Head of Media, Communications Department
Civil Aviation Authority

Tel: XXXXXXXX

Follow us on Twitter: [@UK_CAA](https://twitter.com/UK_CAA)

Please consider the environment. Think before printing this email.

Sent: 21 December 2018 15:50

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

For Gatwick, the following details cover out of hours.

Media enquiries to:
GATWICK AIRPORT PRESS OFFICE
XXXXXXX
XXX@gatwickairport.com

Merry Christmas all.

XXX

XXX XXX

Public Affairs Manager

Gatwick Airport Ltd, 7th Floor, Destinations Place, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex, RH6 0NP

T. XXXXXXXX. M. XXXXXXXX

www.gatwickairport.com

<image002.png>

Sent: 21 December 2018 15:41

Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

For all MAG airports (MAN, STN and EMA) please call XXXXXXXX in the first instance.

Merry Christmas all

XXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 15:37, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@nats.co.uk> wrote:

Dear all,

For reference should it be needed, the NATS out of hours press officer tonight/this weekend is XXX XXX, who is already on this distribution list. On Christmas Eve that will change to XXX XXX (XXX.XXX@nats.co.uk now added) and then me on Christmas Day. Boxing Day is then XXX again.

Our out of hours number is always XXXXXXXX, which then diverts to mobile, but direct dial numbers are:

XXX XXX XXXXXXXX

XXX XXX XXXXXXXX

XXX XXX XXXXXXXX

I've also added XXX XXX, our head of corporate affairs, to the distribution.

Thanks,

XXX

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

XXX XXX
Brand PR Manager

<image002.png>

D: XXXXXXXX
M: XXXXXXXX
E: XXX.XXX@nats.co.uk

<image002.png>

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.aero

<image003.png><image010.gif><image020.png><image010.gif><image021.png><image010.gif><image022.png>

Sent: 21 December 2018 15:24

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Dear all,

Below is the OOO comms roster from Heathrow with contact telephone numbers. Gold, silver and bronze comms are detailed along with mobile numbers.

Many thanks

XXX

| Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--|------------|------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 22-Dec-18 | 23-Dec-18 | 24-Dec-18 | 25-Dec-18 | 26-Dec-18 | 27-Dec-18 | 28-Dec-18 | 29-Dec-18 | 30-Dec-18 | 31-Dec-18 | 01-Jan-19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| GOLD COMMS XXXXXXXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX XXXXX XX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX |
| SILVER COMMS XXX XXX XXXXX XX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | Until midnight – XXX XXX. From midnight, XXX XXX | XXX XXX XXXXXX XX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|
| BRONZE COMMS | | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | | | | | | | |
| XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXXXXX | XXXXXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX | XXX XXX |
| XXXXXXXX | | XX | XX | | | | | | | |

Sent: 21 December 2018 14:44

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Caution: external email. Unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe, do not click links or open attachments.

Just adding a couple more names to this chain. Please can I ask that if you have anyone else you need to add – or remove – you let me know by **1600 today**? I'm keen to avoid flooding your inboxes with lots of additions to the chain, so I'll aim to do it all in one go as much as possible!

Thank you, XXX

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 14:22

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

Ahead of the next CDF call, providing you all with a few bits of information which you may find helpful. Note I have also added more people to this chain, so please use this version going forward!

Best wishes, XXX

Read-out of cross-government comms conference call:

- A cross-government script is now being developed with input from a range of departments. Once we have this we will aim to share the key messages from it with you to help inform your future messaging. This will also be shared with ministers who may be out and about on other media activity in case they get asked about Gatwick.
- The focus of the police is likely to turn towards appealing for witnesses / progress of investigation. There may be a tweet going out from Sussex Police appealing for information, which departments / organisations may wish to amplify.

- We raised the issue about not getting into the detail of capability / individual airports, and the police have provided the following form of words which you may wish to refer to – was clear that no-one should be going any further than this:

We do not want to go into the details of the capabilities of the technology that we now have on scene. We have looked at everything possible that we can deploy to mitigate this threat and we have a range of measures now which puts us in a much better position.

- Work underway on potential proactive stories and digital content over next couple of days – we'll keep you posted once we have confirmation of these.
- NPCC have told all police forces NOT to accept interview bids about their local airports and vulnerabilities etc, but to refer calls on to them for central coordination (bearing in mind point above about not going into detail).

Latest developments:

Latest Sussex Police statement:

A number of safety measures have been brought in to enable Gatwick Airport to re-open on Friday (December 21).

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Barry said: "We are really pleased that the airport has re-opened. The number of options now available to help us detect and mitigate the threat from the drone has given us increased confidence in keeping people safe.

"This, and the fact the last confirmed sighting was before 10pm last night, is reassuring for passengers who have been disrupted by this criminal behaviour.

"This has been a particularly challenging situation. We have looked at everything possible that we can deploy to mitigate this threat and we have a range of measures, of differing levels of sophistication, in place which puts us in a much better position. We are being supported by Surrey Police and Metropolitan Police, as well as the military.

"I cannot guarantee that another drone isn't going to pop up and disrupt the airport. The situation is being kept under review but we are in a much more positive situation than yesterday. The runway is open and we hope to keep it that way.

"We are working very closely with Gatwick Airport Limited and the Civil Aviation Authority and are in close consultation with the government and other agencies in an effort to keep people safe.

"We have significantly increased our police presence to support the operation.

"We are now actively carrying out a criminal investigation and have a number of lines of enquiry. This has been a deliberate act to endanger the airfield and aircraft, a really serious offence that carries significant sentences, and we are doing all we can to find those responsible.

"Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report online or call 101 quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately."

Tourism minister Michael Ellis did an interview on BBC News Channel earlier – read-out of this below:

This is unprecedented? It is, and it's a serious situation. There has been cross-Govt work and the airport has done a good job in cooperating with the multi-faceted units involved. But tourism is incredibly important to our economy. Aviation is of course key to our tourism industry and fundamental to our economy, so this kind of attack badly affects tourism. We understand it's unprecedented and are doing all we can to ensure it doesn't happen again.

It's an embarrassment to the country, according to Col Tim Kemp? Why weren't the military involved earlier?

We have a wonderful military in this country and they don't routinely involve themselves in these operations. When we did need assistance, it happened quickly. This is an unprecedented situation.

Why weren't the military called in sooner? The reality is multiple agencies have been working on this, but we are dealing with delays for tens of thousands of people and have to work as efficiently as possible. I can understand the frustration and fury of passengers who have been delayed. They know whoever responsible for this is the perpetrator behind the drones, and the legal sanctions are severe. All efforts are being made to establish who is responsible for this appalling act of destruction.

Do the police have any leads, and will the government provide whatever budget is necessary for technology to stop this happening again? The technology to stop drones is still in the developmental stage, but you will see DfT has already done a lot of work in this area, including measures going through Parliament on penalties and restrictions. The government has been working on this, but it is an unprecedented attack. *Whoever is responsible for this won't respect laws or regulations - what about the technology?* We want to do everything we possibly can to stop this from happening again. I can assure you people will be looking across government at whether the technology is there and what can be done to mitigate this.

Any leads on the perpetrator? A large number of police resources are dedicated to this and it is being given a very high priority indeed. I can totally understand the frustration here. The sector is working hard to mitigate what is happening.

Keeping in touch:

Contacts over the weekend and into next week; we will have other people available but please use these as your first point of contact. I have also added these people to the rolling chain, so please continue to use this as your primary channel for sharing updates:

DFT DUTY PRESS OFFICE NUMBER – XXXXXXXX

All emails are: firstname.lastname@dft.gov.uk

Friday 21

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

Saturday 22

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

Sunday 23

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

Monday 24

Back-up (also in office during day): XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

Tuesday 25

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

Wednesday 26

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport

XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 11:20

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

[Adding XXX and XXX...](#)

XXX XXX | Chief Press Officer, , Department for Transport

XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 10:11

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

We're using the line below reactively in response to media enquiries about what is happening at other airports.

Kind regards,

XXX

A spokesperson for the Airport Operators Association said:

"In light of events at Gatwick Airport, airports have increased vigilance, including increased police patrols as the Transport Secretary made clear this morning. Airports are working closely with Government, police and industry partners to keep our air traffic safe and are focused on getting passengers away for a well-deserved Christmas break.

"Flying a drone within 1km of an airport or endangering aircraft is a criminal offence with penalties of up to five years in prison. Airports and police work closely together to ensure offenders are brought to justice."

XXX XXX

Senior Public Affairs & PR Manager

Airport Operators Association

3 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ

<image017.jpg>

Tel: XXXXXXXX

Mob: XXXXXXXX

Fax: XXXXXXXX

www.aoa.org.uk

The AOA Annual Dinner, Tuesday 5 March 2019, Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1K 7TN

Together with our Corporate Partners

<image018.jpg>

Information contained in this e-mail is intended for the use of the addressee only, and is confidential. Any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this communication without prior permission of the addressee is strictly prohibited.

The contents of an attachment to this e-mail may contain software viruses which could damage your own computer system. While the Airport Operators Association has taken every reasonable precaution to minimise this risk, we cannot accept liability for any damage which you sustain as a result of software viruses. You should carry out your own virus checks before opening the attachment.

Sent: 21 December 2018 09:55

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all – please see below for readouts of the transport secretary's last three interviews this morning – at Sky, LBC and 5live.

Readout of 5live interview with the Secretary of State on Gatwick 9.15am

SoS: There's been a huge amount of work by staff at Gatwick, emergency services, military and staff at other airlines who have stepped up. Planes have been diverted. All we've done is lift restrictions temporarily around other airports so they can try and get people away this weekend.

Q: Thousands of peoples' lives and Christmas plans been destroyed, did you not have plan in place for this kind of incident?

SoS: It's completely unique incident, never happened anywhere in the world. We've put in legislation around drones, had near misses with zones around aircraft. The law is much tighter than that now and you can get jail sentence for up to five years and there are exclusion zones around airport. This was a wilful attempt to break the law. Whatever you have in place, if someone wants to go and do this, this is a different kind of challenge.

Q: Why do we not have a proper defence system?

SoS: There's no system anywhere in the world. Some airports are starting to acquire them like Heathrow. The technology is evolving all the time. At Gatwick put in military and civilian technology and support from police and armed forces to create situation so airport is safe for passengers and Gatwick is confident planes can fly in and out.

Q: Maybe it's a failure of planning? They should have anticipated this tech is out there? Are the right people have been looking at this and planning?

SoS: The aeroplane industry, airports and manufacturers of technology have been working very hard but not as yet today have a solution that offers a guaranteed solution against drones. We need to talk to other airports, I'm going to be doing that today about the lessons we can learn from Gatwick. We've got to make sure other airports know what's being done and risks. So we can provide quick solutions where we can.

No single off the shelf solution but we've already talked to airports, more patrols around them all protections are being taken but isn't a simple solution. Message to anyone thinking they can do this - you will get a long jail sentence if they are caught. I'm confident the police will find those responsible.

Q: Who is behind this?

Could be an individual with grudge against airport, environment group, not a terror attack more a disruption attack. We don't know.

Q: Any evidence?

At the moment no one knows who did this, police are following up a number of leads.

Q: What about insurance companies, are they doing enough? Already been defined as an extraordinary event?

SoS: I hope and would expect the insurance industry would take an enlightened view of this, it's Christmas and it's unprecedented event.

LBC News 09.05

Snap summary read-out of SoS interview on LBC News

LBC: How should world view UK PLC, Britain's 2nd biggest airport, closed for 24 hrs?

CG: This is a genuine new threat, not just in the UK, we must look how to protect airports. Not conventional terror attack.

LBC: Is it a terror attack?

CG: Depends how you define it; clearly it's a disruption attack. We'll need to do smart, quick planning to prevent this. There's no single off-the-shelf solution. Heathrow has a solution, but no guarantee.

LBC: What does Heathrow have?

CG: Some degree of resistance vs drones,

LBC: Why doesn't Gatwick have it?

CG: These are brand new systems...

LBC: BALPA says that in July, the legislation introduced was grossly inadequate, and it warned the DfT. Do you remember this?

CG: Somebody broke the law; whatever law we passed wouldn't have mattered as someone broke it. We should look at age limits, but we must find smart ways of protecting airports.

LBC: I spoke to deputy from Sussex police; what are the solutions?

CG: These are things from the military & civil arena. I'm not going into specifics.

LBC: Why not solutions yesterday?

CG: Package gives airport comfort to fly today.

LBC: You had all day yesterday. You say perpetrators. will spend many years in jail. You're aware of maximum tariff?

CG: 5 years is the maximum for endangering aircraft.

LBC: No, it's 2.5 years!

CG: Causing public risk can lead to much longer sentences.

LBC: Some years ago, climate protestors caused 25 flights cancelled; they received 6 weeks suspended sentences! Will the courts bear teeth?

CG: The courts are independent.

LBC: Lord Harris has raised concerns about drones to DfT; they have dragged their feet for 2 years.

CG: We need additional protection around airports. There's emerging tech in military arena, some entering commercial arena.

LB: Was enough will shown yesterday? Why not another helicopter, or a shotgun?

CG: A huge amount was done yesterday: a military & civilian effort. As for shooting down drones – there are examples where other governments tried to shoot down drones, Gatwick is in a built-up area. You must be careful with firearms, police can only shoot when safe; it's quite difficult.

LB: BALPA also recommends a 5km exclusion zone as in Australia, not the 1km zone we have.

CG: Particularly with approach and take-off, yes, We will strengthen the law in all sensible ways, but that won't stop a criminal attacking airport.

LBC: There have been 117 near misses between drones and planes this year. Are your colleagues asleep at the wheel?

CG: That's why there's an exclusion zone. These incidents are people behaving irresponsibly. People will face tougher penalties.

LBC: This is as close to terror as you can get...

CG: There's no evidence to link this to a conventional terror group. We'll be talking to other airports, putting on additional patrols. All airports must face up to this challenge.

LB: Should airline & holiday industry look to themselves? People have been "hotelled"?

CG: Industry should be smart & helpful.

LB: Have the police & military acted speedily and rapidly?

CG: Safety is paramount; people were working very hard to get to a level where airport is safe.

LB: How confident are you that the perpetrator will be caught?

CG: I'm confident in Surrey and Sussex police, supported by the Met.

LB: You should have gone to Gatwick yesterday?

CG: The last thing the airport needed was a ministerial visit! We need people to get on with their jobs.

SKY News 08.50

Snap summary read-out of SoS interview on Sky News

CG: We don't know who has done this at the moment. Police are following leads. We don't know if it is a group or individuals. No-one has claimed responsibility.

SKY: A lot of questions to answer? A single drone shutting an airport for 36 hours?

CG: We have to take serious steps to protect airports. There is no doubt this is a big challenge. No technology exists yet that guarantees protection. Some systems available. But not fail-safe for prevention. I am talking to other airports today about what is needed to be done for the future.

SKY: Legislation should be stronger?

CG: That is one thing we are looking at. Further measures are being looked at. Should be long prison sentences for people who have done this. This was a criminal offence. You cannot prevent someone from breaking the law so we have to have proper measure in place when it happens.

SKY: Proper strategy in place? Criticism of the high number of near misses this year? This is a problem?

CG: This is why we have legislated and introduced penalties. You can go to jail for up to 5 years for something like this. We need to see if we can take that legislation further. A consultation is in place. But whatever regulations we have it does not stop someone deliberately trying to disrupt airports. This was a deliberate attempt. That needs prevention and we must work quickly on this.

SKY: Are we playing catch-up? So many drones out there. No current registration process?

CG: We have plans in place for registration system. We need to legislate for wanton criminal behaviour of this kind. This has not happened anywhere in the world before. We have to move quickly. It is not terrorism in the conventional sense but disruption.

SKY: Where are we in interpreting the law? Life for endangering passengers and aircraft?

CG: There are a number of offences that could be brought against the person who have done this. Longer sentences possible. If police advise they need longer sentence we can look at that. But a lot of flexibility at the moment already. The people who did this should face long jail sentences

SKY: If the drone re-appears are there people ready to shoot it down?

CG: I cannot give much detail about what measures we have in place. But we have to be careful. It can be dangerous to shoot it down in a built-up area. Must be done carefully. Drones are hard to target. I won't talk about specific measures.

XXX XXX | Chief Press Officer, , Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 09:46

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

[Latest easyJet statement –](#)

easyJet Gatwick Statement 09:30 21 December 2018

“We are making every effort to get people to their destination at this important time of the year. We are working to get our operations at Gatwick back to normal, but with runway movements restricted to a limited number per hour, we expect some disruption to continue.

“Whilst we are operating as many flights as possible, we continue to advise all customers flying to and from London Gatwick today to check the status of their flight on our Flight Tracker www.easyjet.com/en/flight-tracker or via the app, before coming to the airport. Customers on cancelled flights are entitled to a free of charge transfer to an alternative flight and hotel accommodation if required. We will also reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by passengers who arrange their own comparable alternative transport.

“Whilst the situation is outside of our control, we recognise how frustrating this is for everyone involved and would like to apologise to passengers for any disruption to their travel plans.

“The safety of our passengers and crew remains our highest priority.”

Sent: 21 December 2018 08:38

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

The SoS has now agreed to do a series of extra interviews. Schedule is below.

8.45am - Sky News

9am - LBC

9.15am - 5Live

9.30am - ITV News

Please see below a readout of SOS' interview on the Today Programme at 08:10am this morning

New measures in place? I'm not going to be specific about the individual measures because some of this is military capability, but we are now confident that the mixture of measures brought in give comfort that planes can fly safely into and out of the airport. If that wasn't the case, they wouldn't have taken this decision. Safety has to be paramount. There are new technologies now available, some purely in the military arena, some appearing in the commercial market, which are able to take action against drones. There isn't a single off the shelf commercial solution which does the job, so a variety of things have been done to create confidence.

36 hours after it was closed? This is an unprecedented event. *There have been warnings?* It's something for which there aren't simple solutions. Lots of people have said can't it be shot down, but there is an experience elsewhere in the world recently of thousands of machine gun bullets failing to bring down a drone. Of course you can't just fire weapons haphazardly in a built up area around the airport.

36 hours is far too long, you took 20 hours to make a statement? We've all been working on this since it happened. A huge amount of effort has been put in place across govt, first of all to get safety measures in place and secondly to create other opportunities for passengers. One of the things I did yesterday was to lift the requirements on other airports so more planes could fly in the night time hours. A number of airlines have transferred flights to Stansted.

But why did it take so long, we weren't prepared at all? This is an entirely new kind of threat and we are going to have to move quickly. One of the things I intend to do very quickly is to convene discussions across all of our airports. There are some systems beginning to be introduced in some airports around the world that can have an impact on this, but there is no single solution. We've had to assemble a variety of measures to make sure things are safe. This is a new kind of attack that we are going to have to make sure we are prepared for.

Attack by whom? This isn't clear yet. We have not yet complete inquiries. Police are following a number of leads. There is speculation it could be an environmental protest, but we genuinely don't know. The important thing is to find the perpetrators quickly and make sure they face consequences. *More likely to be a group?* It's very difficult to tell. The police need to work through and identify who is responsible.

Could it be a foreign govt? I don't want to speculate on that or what the motivation was. *Ruled out possibility of foreign state?* I think it's unlikely but at the moment I'm not ruling out anything.

Are measures in place at Heathrow? Heathrow is one of the airports that has begun to put in systems that can resist this. We have spoken to police forces across the country to increase patrols around airports. We are talking to Heathrow about additional measures that may be necessary, but I'm not going to talk about that publicly.

No commercial solution on the market means this is a problem for govt? There is no single commercial solution that can make a difference. We are facing a new kind of threat. We are looking at the best ways of making protections permanent. Right now the priority is to make Gatwick safe. We will be talking very quickly to other airports about measures they can take.

Will there be compensation for people caught up in this? This is something that should be covered under travel insurance policies. We will talk to the industry today to make sure they treat claims reasonably. I hope they take an enlightened view.

XXX XXX | Chief Press Officer, , Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 08:28

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

The latest media line from us.

08:00 21st December 2018:

Gatwick's runway is currently available having reopened at 06:00. A limited number of aircraft are taking off and landing at Gatwick this morning but our departures and arrivals rate is currently very restricted to just a few runway movements every hour so passengers must expect delays and cancellations again today. Gatwick continues to strongly advise passengers to check the status of their flight with their airline before travelling to the airport.

Overnight we have been able to work with partners, including Government agencies and the Military to put measures in place which have provided the confidence we needed to re-open the runway and ensure the safety of passengers, which remains our priority.

We continue to provide welfare and information to all disrupted passengers who are at the airport and have had teams in throughout the night. Our priority today is to get our operation back on track so that people can be where they need to be for Christmas, and we will update as more information becomes available throughout the day.

Thanks,

XXX

XXX XXX

Public Affairs Manager

Gatwick Airport Ltd, 7th Floor, Destinations Place, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex, RH6 0NP

T. XXXXXXX. M. XXXXXXX

www.gatwickairport.com

<image019.png>

Sent: 20 December 2018 20:48

Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi All,

Chris Grayling will be doing the following morning media:

07:40: BBC Breakfast

08:20: Today Programme

Both live from New Broadcasting House.

Regards,

XXX

XXX XXX | Senior Press Officer, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 19:46

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Adding in a couple more colleagues from Gatwick and Sussex Police who are on overnight.

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 19:08

Subject: Re: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Just adding a few more people to this chain.

XXX XXX, Crisis Communications Manager, Department for Transport, XXXXXXXX

On 20 Dec 2018, at 18:45, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks XXX.

All, we're widening out this copy chain to include other airport and airline comms colleagues who are affected by the disruption today. Very grateful if you could continue to update us with any media lines, statements or interviews you may be doing, and we will endeavour to do the same overnight. If you have any queries of DfT press office, XXX and XXX are on for us and can be reached at XXXXXXXX; they're also copied in here.

Very grateful if people could also keep us posted on any customer comms they're planning wherever possible too.

Thanks for all your input today, and please do let us know if you have any questions.

Best wishes, XXX

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 18:10

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

[Latest line from Gatwick Airport below](#)

Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, London Gatwick said:

"On behalf of everyone at Gatwick I would like to repeat how sorry we are for the inconvenience this criminal behaviour has caused passengers and we share their real anger and frustration that it has happened. This is a highly targeted activity which has been designed to close the airport and bring maximum disruption in the run up to Christmas. We are working very closely with the police and to try to resolve this for passengers.

"We hope passengers appreciate that we must and will always prioritise their safety over everything else. We are all working flat out to minimise inconvenience and have additional staff in both terminals assisting passengers who are waiting. Regrettably we are still not in a position to say when it will be safe to reopen the airport. As soon as we can we will.

"To recap the facts. We first had reports of two drones flying in and around the airfield at 21:03 last night. As a result, we took immediate steps to close the runway in accordance with our airport safety protocols. We obviously wanted to be in a position to reopen the airport again as quickly as possible. We are still receiving drone sightings in and around the Gatwick airfield. Therefore, until we are confident that the issue has been resolved it would clearly not be in the interests of passengers to do so as we could be jeopardising their safety.

"So regrettably, for the time being, the airport will remain closed as a result of this criminal activity. While some airlines have cancelled all flights up to [7pm tonight](#), we would encourage all passengers to check the latest information on their flights directly with their airline or on the Gatwick website.

"We are working hard with both the police and Government agencies as we seek to resolve this situation. We know that everyone, including Government, appreciates the severity of the situation and are very grateful for the active role that the police are taking to try and resolve this. We all recognise the urgent need to take the necessary steps that can lead to services getting back to normal as quickly as possible.

“Although not for today, these events obviously highlight a wider strategic challenge for aviation in this country which we need to address together with speed - the aviation industry, Government and all the other relevant authorities. It cannot be right that drones can close a vital part of our national infrastructure in this way. This is obviously a relatively new technology and we need to think through together the right solutions to make sure it cannot happen again.

“In the meantime all our focus is on sorting the current challenge and getting services back to normal for passengers. At the moment, I am not in a position to say with certainty when that might be but everyone is doing whatever they can to help make that happen.”

Sent: 20 December 2018 17:50

Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

The Transport Secretary was just interviewed live on **BBC News** about the ongoing drone situation at Gatwick; this clip is being pooled for other news channels and has also appeared on Sky News. Please see a quick readout below.

What’s causing the disruption?

We are clear this is a fairly large drone, a commercial size drone. This is quite clearly a deliberate act as the drone goes up again whenever Gatwick tries to reopen the runway. Clear message for whoever is doing this is that there’s a 5 year jail sentence for this kind of action. Anyone who does this should expect to go to jail for many years.

Any idea of why they are doing this?

No sense of motive, no suggestion this is a terrorist act. It’s clear someone wants to disrupt Gatwick airport. There is an intense police operation working together to catch the perpetrator, two local police forces working with the Met and working with the counter-terrorism police. No evidence of a terrorist link.

What can government do to help the stranded passengers?

We are in regular conversations with the airlines, looking at all measures we can to ease the pressure; we are temporarily lifting night flight restrictions at other airports, apologies to residents affected but it is right we try and sort this out for passengers.

Which airports will have the night flight restrictions lifted?

It’s likely to be other London airports. Will review the situation tomorrow but it’s just this evening to get people away. This is hugely unfortunate, not something that’s been experienced in this country before, drones have been a problem around the world and this is not the first instance. We will do everything we can for passengers and to get Gatwick open.

Licensing of drones? Looking to change laws?

We've already changed the rules in the past few months. There is a long jail sentence for people who endanger an aircraft. In this particular situation it is a currently illegal act that carries a long jail sentence. The people who have done this should expect to go to jail for a long time.

When will the airport reopen?

There's a huge amount going on, a huge effort to find the perpetrators, it's for NATS and the air control operators to decide when it's safe to fly. In the meantime will do everything we can to ease the problems for passengers.

XXX XXX | Senior Press Officer, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 16:40

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

Please find below for information a statement from the Transport Secretary on the ongoing drone incident at Gatwick airport – just issued.

Best wishes, XXX

Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling said:

“This is clearly a very serious ongoing incident in which substantial drones have been used to bring about the temporary closure of a major international airport.

“The people who were involved should face the maximum possible custodial sentence for the damage they have done.

“Government is doing everything it can to support Sussex police.”

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 16:23

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all, please see below an updated MoD statement for information. They are not entering into discussion about the details of the operation or the equipment involved.

Also copying in XXX who is on duty for us tonight and will provide further updates if necessary. Duty press office number is XXXXXXXX.

Best wishes, XXX

An MOD spokesperson said:

“We are deploying specialist equipment to Gatwick airport to assist Sussex Police.”

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 15:31

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

Thanks for all your input today - if you have any updates to your lines, very grateful if you could let this chain know. Our response remains the same as it was before; however, we've also been sent lines by MoD and the NPCC – see below for information.

Cheers, XXX

An MOD spokesperson said:

“There are ongoing discussions with the police about any military capability that could be provided to assist with their operation.”

Deputy Chief Constable Serena Kennedy, National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) lead for criminal use of drones said:

“Flying drones near to an airport is incredibly dangerous, reckless and a crime. Those who choose to behave in this way should be in no doubt that they face serious consequences and police will use all available powers to investigate and prosecute.

“This incident has caused disruption to thousands of people but the consequences could have been much worse. Safety will always be the number one priority.

“We are currently working with government, the Civil Aviation Authority and others on future legislation to meet the challenges and risks posed by drones now and in the future.”

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 11:26

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Re-adding people to this chain – please use this version.

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 20 December 2018 11:23

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

ALL: The CAA will be posting this message on social media at 11.45am.

UK Civil Aviation Authority statement: Gatwick Disruption - 20 December 2018

“The CAA is offering the following advice to passengers currently experiencing disruption at Gatwick Airport. Under EU261 regulations, passengers that no longer wish to take their flight can contact their airline for a refund. For those passengers that do still wish to fly, we advise them to contact their airline to understand the options available.”

“Given the reasons for the current disruption at Gatwick Airport, the Civil Aviation Authority considers this event to be an extraordinary circumstance. In such circumstances airlines are not obliged to pay financial compensation to passengers affected by the disruption.”

XXX XXX

<image001.gif>

Head of Media, Communications Department
Civil Aviation Authority

Tel: XXXXXXXX

Follow us on Twitter: [@UK_CAA](https://twitter.com/UK_CAA)

Please consider the environment. Think before printing this email.

Sent: 20 December 2018 11:10

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Adding some more colleagues from CAA onto this.

XXX XXX

<image001.gif>

Head of Media, Communications Department
Civil Aviation Authority

Tel: XXXXXXXXX

Follow us on Twitter: [@UK_CAA](#)

Please consider the environment. Think before printing this email.

Sent: 20 December 2018 11:07

Subject: RE: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Thanks, XXX.

We've had plenty of media request, but NATS is also not doing any interviews for the time being.

Our reactive line is:

"We are working closely with airports and airlines to help handle any disruption from the situation at Gatwick.

"Passengers flying to or from Gatwick today are advised to contact their airlines.

"Flying any kind of drone near an airport or in controlled airspace without the proper permissions is dangerous and unacceptable. People using drones should apply common sense when deciding where to fly and need to remember that the same legal obligations apply to them as well as any other pilot.

"NATS continues to work closely with manned and unmanned aviation industries, the government and the regulator to create an environment that ensures the safety of all airspace users while supporting the growing use of drones."

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

XXX XXX

Brand PR Manager

<image003.png>

D: XXXXXXXX

M: XXXXXXXX

E: XXX.XXX@nats.co.uk

<image003.png>

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL

www.nats.aero

<image004.png><image005.gif><image006.png><image005.gif><image007.png><image005.gif><image008.png>

Sent: 20 December 2018 11:03

Subject: Rolling chain for comms around Gatwick incident (Gatwick, DfT, CAA, NATS, Sussex police)

Hi all,

Just setting up one rolling chain where we can share any major updates, media plans and updated statements.

DfT statement below. Baroness Sugg has done media rounds this morning. No further media planned at this stage.

Aviation Minister Baroness Sugg said:

“These drones have been flown illegally and the operators, who have acted incredibly irresponsibly, could face up to five years in jail.

“We are in close contact with Gatwick Airport as they work with police to safely resolve the situation as quickly as possible.”

Background

- In May, the Government amended the Air Navigation Order 2016 to make it illegal to fly drones above 400 feet and within one kilometre of an airport boundary. This came into effect in July.
- We urge all passengers to check with the airport for the latest information on their flight.
- It is against the law to fly a drone above 400ft or within 1km of an airport boundary
- These drones have been flown recklessly and negligently endangering aircraft. If the operators are found to have committed a criminal offence they could face up to five years in prison.
- The Government plans to publish a response to its drone consultation in the New Year including possible frameworks for the testing and use of counter-drone technology that could be used to protect sensitive national infrastructure from possible malicious drone incursions

- Passenger should check with the airport before travelling, more information can be found at: <https://www.gatwickairport.com/flights/flight-disruption/>

[<image009.jpg>](#)

XXX XXX
Senior Press Officer, Communications Directorate
XXX, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR
XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
[Follow us on twitter @transportgovuk](#)

[<image010.gif>](#)

[<image011.gif>](#) [@YoEgovuk](#) [<image012.gif>](#) [/YearofEngineering](#)

5. RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Please find below the police Q & A.

I awaiting a read out on the interview.

Q&AS

If Asked :

Why have you released the suspects?

Acting on information we needed to thoroughly investigate. Both people have fully co-operated with our enquiries and we are satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick.

Why did you keep them in custody so long if they are innocent?

We needed to thorough investigate the information that we received, and are now satisfied that they are not suspects.

Will you be paying compensation?

We have not been asked to consider that at this stage.

Why were they named?

We did not disclose their names and would not. It is important to remember that when people are arrested in an effort to make further enquiries it does not mean that they are guilty of an offence.

How many additional officers have you added to your team?

It has flexed throughout the operation and investigation according to the information or intelligence we have had at the time.

How long will your operation last at Gatwick Airport?

We will continue to ensure the safety of the public is our first priority and will support Gatwick airport in continuing to enhance prevention and response measures.

Are you closer to finding the real suspect?

Our inquiry continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and we continue to actively follow lines of investigation.

We ask for the public's continued support by reporting anything suspicious, contacting us with any information in relation to the drone incidents at Gatwick.

Gatwick Airport Limited has offered a £50,000 reward through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the criminal act that disrupted flights.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately.

What other lines of enquiry are you pursuing?

We are interviewing those who have reported sightings of drones, are carrying out extensive house to house enquiries and are carrying out forensic examination of a drone found near the perimeter of the airport near Horley, which is close to the last reported sighting.

When will you know the outcome of the forensics?

We continue to FastTrack all of our forensic opportunities in the case to offer the investigating team the best opportunities to resolve this incident fully.

Is finding the drone a significant breakthrough in your investigations?

It is too early to tell, we need to make sure we are thorough and explore every angle with these opportunities to get it right.

Sent: 23 December 2018 12:06

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

All,

Pending confirmation from XXX that Sussex Police have put out the above release, please see updated XWH script attached.

Thanks,

XXX

On Sun, 23 Dec 2018 at 11:16, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@homeoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Copying HO duty press officers

XXX XXX

Home Office Press Office

M: XXXXXXXX

On 23 Dec 2018, at 11:09, "XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk" <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Sussex Police are about to put out a release that the two people arrested have been released from custody and are no longer subjects of interest.

GAL have put up a reward for information via Crimetoppers.

Sussex Pol lines:-

Two people arrested in conjunction with the widespread disruption of flights at Gatwick Airport through the illegal use of drones have been released without charge on Sunday (23 December).

Sussex Police Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley said: "Both people have fully co-operated with our enquiries and I am satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick.

"It is important to remember that when people are arrested in an effort to make further enquiries it does not mean that they are guilty of an offence and Sussex Police would not seek to make their identity public.

"Our inquiry continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and we continue to actively follow lines of investigation.

"We ask for the public's continued support by reporting anything suspicious, contacting us with any information in relation to the drone incidents at Gatwick."

Gatwick Airport Limited has offered a £50,000 reward through Crimestoppers, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the criminal act that disrupted flights.

If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers website](#). Payout on the reward will be made only if the information is given to Crimestoppers first.

Sent: 23 December 2018 10:43

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Thanks XXX.

Are ministers meeting today to discuss drones/Gatwick? (Or officials?) Sky news have rang and are asking for confirmation/background following a separate report for - grateful for info.

Thanks, best,

XXX

On 23 Dec 2018, at 09:01, XXX XXX <XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks XXX - adding XXX taking over duty for us.

On 23 Dec 2018, at 08:33, XXX XXX <XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Just to confirm that we will not hold a xWH call today.

On 22 Dec 2018, at 23:12, 'XXX XXX (Press Office)' via National Security Communications Team <XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

The Sunday Times have splashed on an interview with Ben Wallace on wider security matters, in which he warns about the risk of an Al-Qaeda attack on aviation.

This has been linked to drones, although the interview took place prior to the Gatwick incident. We were not expecting it to run at this stage so looks like it has been brought forward because of recent events.

Thanks

XXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 22:29, XXX XXX (Press Office) <XXX.XXX@homeoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Yes, it was between us and MoD I believe because it was new technology.

On 22 Dec 2018, at 22:25, XXX XXX <XXX.XXXt@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks XXX. Is that actually a question for HO, would it be for HO to provide authorisation to use jamming equipment?

XXX XXX

XXXXXXXXXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 22:23, XXX XXX (Press Office) <XXX.XXX@homeoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

All

For info, we've been contacted by Mail on Sunday about how long it took to authorise the use of jamming equipment at Gatwick but are guiding that we don't comment on security matters.

Thanks

XXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 22:06, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

All,

Please see latest XWH script attached, updated as of 2200 this evening.

On Sat, 22 Dec 2018 at 18:07, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

I'll speak to Heathrow.

XXX XXX

XXXXXXXXXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 17:51, XXX XXX <XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks XXX - I don't suppose there's a readout of this available?

On 22 Dec 2018, at 17:43, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi all,

LGW called to say its Chief Exec Stewart Wingate was interviewed for the Sunday Times today. He largely focused on their response and when asked what more they need from government was very supportive and said our response was second to none and all have worked together really well.

Home Office - to note: the other line of questioning was jamming technology and whether process for approval should become easier, where he didn't give a view but they wanted to let us know this was a line of inquiry.

Regards,

XXX

XXX XXX

XXXXXXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 11:18, "XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk" <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Update going out from the police:-

Superintendent James Collis said "As part of our ongoing investigations into the criminal use of drones which has severely disrupted flights in and out of Gatwick Airport, Sussex Police made two arrests just after 10pm on Friday (December 21).

"Our investigations are still on-going and our activities at the airport continue to build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones, by deploying a range of tactics.

"We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice.

"The arrests we have made are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm, every line of enquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers.

"Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report [online](#) or call 101 quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately."

A 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman, both from Crawley, were arrested in the town on suspicion of disrupting services of civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. They remained in custody at 11am on Saturday.

Sent: 22 December 2018 10:32

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

All

As requested on the call the lines on counter drone measures that went to various publications on Thursday are below.

I've also included a couple of lines that have been cleared overnight for info.

Thanks

XXX

- **Sunday Times on claims Home Office authorisation slowed down firearms getting to scene at Gatwick.**

GUIDANCE:

There is no requirement on the police to seek Home Office approval for the routine use of firearms, and we did not receive any request from the police to authorise firearms at Gatwick airport.

- **Mirror on downscaling Flight Path Protection Teams** (following on from this 2015 Reuters article <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-security-police-exclusive-idUKKBN0TN0Q320151204>)

Verbal guidance:

We would not comment on operational matters.

Counter drone measure lines

A Government spokesperson:

“We are working with industry on the development of counter-drone technology to protect against the malicious use of drones and we offer advice to businesses on specific protective security measures.

“We have consulted on how this technology and other counter-measures should be best used and will be responding soon.

“We continue to support the police in their response to this illegal activity.”

Further lines:

Consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/drone-legislation-use-restrictions-and-enforcement>

It is for individual organisations to determine the specific counter-drone measures suitable for their purposes.

Sent: 22 December 2018 10:22

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Hi all

Updated core script attached to include Sussex line re arrests. Thanks for everyone's time on the call and we will update further if necessary following officials meeting at 1030.

XXX

On Sat, 22 Dec 2018 at 10:03, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

XXXXXXXX

XXX

On Sat, 22 Dec 2018 at 10:02, 'XXX XXX (Press Office)' via National Security Communications Team <XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks XXX

Are you able to circulate the dial in details? Having trouble accessing them on the invite.

Thanks

XXX

On 22 Dec 2018, at 09:50, XXX XXX <XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Re: Comms call at 1000. Suggest we keep this brief and cover:

1. Current situation and media picture (Dft, Police to lead please)
2. Planned activity today

Speak shortly,

XXX

Sent: 22 December 2018 07:19

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Thanks XXX. Do you or the Home Office have more information about the circumstances of the arrest, or progress of the investigation? We are extremely keen to know what the intelligence was that led to the arrest and how likely it is you think you've got the right people and/or if you'll be charging/releasing the two individuals or making any further arrests? Thanks.

XXX XXX | Senior Press Officer, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 22 December 2018 01:39

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Sent: 21 December 2018 19:23

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Thanks XXX.

In light of the changeable circumstances, we don't anticipate updates to the XWH script unless there is substantive progress made to the investigation. In the meantime we have the line on keeping flight suspensions under review.

All - Reminder that we have a brief call at 10am to align.

Best,

XXX

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Dec 2018, at 19:14, <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Sussex Police updated line:-

Gatwick Airport has now advised that they have resumed flights at Gatwick following suspension of operations while a reported drone was in the area.

Sussex Police continues to support the airport with proactive policing to ensure the safety of the travelling public and all those in and around the airport and is pursuing an active investigation into the criminal activity.

Sent: 21 December 2018 18:43
Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Looping in Sussex Police Colleagues.

I will remain on call over the weekend and supporting Sussex Police if needed,

I can be contacted on:-

XXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 18:28
Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Gatwick line below:

“Flights have now resumed at Gatwick following a reported drone in the area. While we investigated, airfield movements were suspended. This was a precautionary measure as safety remains our main priority. The military measures we have in place at the airport have provided us with the reassurance necessary that it is safe to re-open our airfield.”

XXX XXX, Crisis Communications Manager, Department for Transport, XXXXXXXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 18:26, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Sky reporting now that flights resumed. Seeking confirmation.

XXX XXX, Crisis Communications Manager, Department for Transport, XXXXXXXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 18:21, "XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk" <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Apologies for the delay here is the Sussex police line.

Gatwick Airport have advised us that airfield operations have been suspended for safety reasons while reports of renewed drone activity are investigated.

Sussex Police is supporting the airport and is proactively deploying significant resources to seek and locate the drone and its operator and to ensure the safety of the travelling public and all those in and around the airport.

Sent: 21 December 2018 18:11

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

[Latest Gatwick line](#)

“Gatwick is investigating reports of a drone sighting. As a precaution we have suspended airfield operations. More to follow.”

Sent: 21 December 2018 17:31

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

[We haven't yet had official confirmation from Gatwick but this is being chased up.](#)

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 17:26

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

All,

Please note that BBC are reporting that Gatwick have suspended flights again.

Is anyone able to confirm whether that is indeed the case?

Thanks,

XXX

On Fri, 21 Dec 2018 at 16:52, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Also adding in additional DfT colleagues for over the weekend and next week – please use this version.

XXX XXX | Crisis Communications Manager, Communications Directorate, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXX

Sent: 21 December 2018 16:51

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Copying in MOD colleagues working over the weekend.

XXX/XXX – note call tomorrow at 10am.

XXX

XXX XXX | Communications Officer | Operations

Ministry of Defence

G.B.34 | Main Building | Whitehall

London | SW1A 2HB

Civ: XXXXXXXX | Mil: XXXXXXXX

MODNet: XXX.XXX@mod.gov.uk

Standalone: xxx.xxx@ddc-mod.org

<image001.png>

[MOD on GOV.UK](#)

[MOD on Twitter](#)

Sent: 21 December 2018 16:42

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

Call invite has been shared, please let me know if you'd like us to forward to any colleagues.

All - Narrative updated & attached, with a Q&A tweak and the FCO statement in annex.

Best,

XXX

<image002.jpg>

XXX XXX
National Security Communications Team
Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office Communications
M: XXXXXXXX **T:** XXXXXXXX
[E: XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)
[Follow us on Twitter @cabinetofficeuk](#)

-
-
-
[On Fri, 21 Dec 2018 at 16:26, XXX XXX <XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:](#)

All

-
[I don't propose we hold another xWH coordination call this afternoon unless the situation on the ground changes.](#)

-
[We will host a brief coordination call at **1000 tomorrow** for those with an interest. If needed, we can also run any changes into the script tomorrow morning.](#)

-
[Thanks](#)

-
[XXX](#)

-
[Sent: 21 December 2018 16:12](#)
[Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK](#)

-
Thanks XXX, DFT have also approved.

-
All - please treat the attached as final and share with teams for deployment as needed.

-
Best,

XXX

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | - | <u>XXX XXX</u> <u>National Security Communications Team</u> <u>Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office Communications</u> Error Filename not specified. <u>M: XXXXXXXX T: XXXXXXXX</u> <u>E: XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk</u> <u>Follow us on Twitter @cabinetofficeuk</u> |
|--|--|---|---|

-
-
-
On Fri, 21 Dec 2018 at 15:57, <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Im happy with the police line.

-
-
Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

-
All,

-
Attached please find the draft **XWH narrative on the Gatwick drone incident.**

-
Comments by 1600 please so we can deploy by COP: DFT and POLICE have specific actions to check [yellow highlight].

-
Please ensure you share duty contacts on this chain.

- NPCC have told all police forces NOT to accept interview bids about their local airports and vulnerabilities etc, but to refer calls on to them for central coordination (bearing in mind point above about not going into detail).

-

-

Latest developments:

Latest Sussex Police statement:

A number of safety measures have been brought in to enable Gatwick Airport to re-open on Friday (December 21).

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Barry said: "We are really pleased that the airport has re-opened. The number of options now available to help us detect and mitigate the threat from the drone has given us increased confidence in keeping people safe."

"This, and the fact the last confirmed sighting was before 10pm last night, is reassuring for passengers who have been disrupted by this criminal behaviour."

"This has been a particularly challenging situation. We have looked at everything possible that we can deploy to mitigate this threat and we have a range of measures, of differing levels of sophistication, in place which puts us in a much better position. We are being supported by Surrey Police and Metropolitan Police, as well as the military."

"I cannot guarantee that another drone isn't going to pop up and disrupt the airport. The situation is being kept under review but we are in a much more positive situation than yesterday. The runway is open and we hope to keep it that way."

"We are working very closely with Gatwick Airport Limited and the Civil Aviation Authority and are in close consultation with the government and other agencies in an effort to keep people safe."

"We have significantly increased our police presence to support the operation."

"We are now actively carrying out a criminal investigation and have a number of lines of enquiry. This has been a deliberate act to endanger the airfield and aircraft, a really serious offence that carries significant sentences, and we are doing all we can to find those responsible."

"Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report online or call 101 quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately."

-

-

Tourism minister Michael Ellis did an interview on BBC News Channel earlier – read-out of this below:

-

This is unprecedented? It is, and it's a serious situation. There has been cross-Govt work and the airport has done a good job in cooperating with the multi-faceted units involved. But tourism is incredibly important to our economy. Aviation is of course key to our tourism industry and fundamental to our economy, so this

kind of attack badly affects tourism. We understand it's unprecedented and are doing all we can to ensure it doesn't happen again.

-

It's an embarrassment to the country, according to Col Tim Kemp? Why weren't the military involved earlier?

We have a wonderful military in this country and they don't routinely involve themselves in these operations. When we did need assistance, it happened quickly. This is an unprecedented situation.

-

Why weren't the military called in sooner? The reality is multiple agencies have been working on this, but we are dealing with delays for tens of thousands of people and have to work as efficiently as possible. I can understand the frustration and fury of passengers who have been delayed. They know whoever responsible for this is the perpetrator behind the drones, and the legal sanctions are severe. All efforts are being made to establish who is responsible for this appalling act of destruction.

-

Do the police have any leads, and will the government provide whatever budget is necessary for technology to stop this happening again? The technology to stop drones is still in the developmental stage, but you will see DfT has already done a lot of work in this area, including measures going through Parliament on penalties and restrictions. The government has been working on this, but it is an unprecedented attack. Whoever is responsible for this won't respect laws or regulations - what about the technology? We want to do everything we possibly can to stop this from happening again. I can assure you people will be looking across government at whether the technology is there and what can be done to mitigate this.

-

Any leads on the perpetrator? A large number of police resources are dedicated to this and it is being given a very high priority indeed. I can totally understand the frustration here. The sector is working hard to mitigate what is happening.

-

-

Keeping in touch:

Contacts over the weekend and into next week; we will have other people available but please use these as your first point of contact. I have also added these people to the rolling chain, so please continue to use this as your primary channel for sharing updates:

-

DFT DUTY PRESS OFFICE NUMBER – XXXXXXXX

All emails are: firstname.lastname@dft.gov.uk

-

Friday 21

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

Saturday 22

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

Sunday 23

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

Monday 24

Back-up (also in office during day): XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

Tuesday 25

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

Wednesday 26

Back-up: XXX XXX

Duty press officer: XXX XXX

-

-

XXX XXX | Chief Press Officer, , Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

-

Subject: Re: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

-

Adding XXX from our digital team to this chain.

XXX XXX, Crisis Communications Manager, Department for Transport, XXXXXXX

On 21 Dec 2018, at 12:05, "XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk" <XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Sussex statement going out soon to support intvw's with ACC Barry.

A number of safety measures have been brought in to enable Gatwick Airport to re-open on Friday (December 21).

Assistant Chief Constable XXX XXX said: "We are really pleased that the airport has re-opened. The number of options now available to help us detect and mitigate the threat from the drone has given us increased confidence in keeping people safe.

"This, and the fact the last confirmed sighting was before 10pm last night, is reassuring for passengers who have been disrupted by this criminal behaviour.

"This has been a particularly challenging situation. We have looked at everything possible that we can deploy to mitigate this threat and we have a range of measures, of differing levels of sophistication, in place which puts us in a much better position. We are being supported by Surrey Police and Metropolitan Police, as well as the military.

"I cannot guarantee that another drone isn't going to pop up and disrupt the airport. The situation is being kept under review but we are in a much more positive situation than yesterday. The runway is open and we hope to keep it that way.

"We are working very closely with Gatwick Airport Limited and the Civil Aviation Authority and are in close consultation with the government and other agencies in an effort to keep people safe.

"We have significantly increased our police presence to support the operation.

"We are now actively carrying out a criminal investigation and have a number of lines of enquiry. This has been a deliberate act to endanger the airfield and aircraft, a really serious offence that carries significant sentences, and we are doing all we can to find those responsible.

"Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report online or call 101 quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately."

-

-

-

Subject: RE: Rolling x-govt chain GATWICK

-

Hi all,

-

Please see an updated narrative from us following the Transport Secretary's media round this morning.

-

Best wishes,

XXX

-

Updated Narrative 21/12/18:

- This behaviour was a criminal offence. We feel for all the passengers facing so much disruption.
- These drone users were acting illegally, and the law couldn't be clearer that those found endangering aircraft could face up to five years in jail.
- To try and help affected passengers we've lifted restrictions temporarily around other airports so they can try and get people away this weekend.
- We welcome the news that Gatwick Airport is now open and are working with a range of stakeholders including airports to ensure passengers can continue to travel safely.
- We are also speaking with insurance companies to see what can be done to help passengers.
- This an emerging technology, a new kind of threat and an unprecedented situation. Going forward we will look at the lessons we can learn from Gatwick.
- We have already taken steps to meet the challenge of this new technology. We made it against the law to fly drones above 400 feet and within one kilometre of an airport boundary.
- On top of this, we are taking steps to ensure all drone users register their drone and take a safety test so they are aware of the law.
- We've also recently consulted on extending police powers to deal with those misusing drones.
- Technology is advancing quickly and we're working to keep up with it, including working with manufacturers on geofencing.
- Drones have huge potential benefits for society, but we need to ensure they're used safely.

Background:

In May this year, the Government implemented changes to the Air Navigation Order, which included new measures to:

- restrict all drones from flying above 400ft; and
- restrict drone use within 1km of an airport boundary.

These measures came into force on the 30th July 2018.

Further measures to:


- To register all drone operators with drones between 250g and 20kg; and
- implement a test for remote pilots of drones between 250g and 20kg; will come into force in November 2019.

-
XXX XXX | Senior Press Officer, Department for Transport
XXX | XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
-

6. Re: Today [Official]

Thanks. Copying XXX here.

Unless we hear more on the rolling chain (the innocent couple might put out a statement) I've just prepped new lines to go out c.1600-1630. Draft version attached here with additions/subtractions marked. Don't think there's much more to add.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>--</p>  | <p>XXX XXX National Security Communications Team (NSCT) Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office Communications E: XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk T: XXXXXXXX M: XXXXXXXX R: XXXXXXXX</p> |
|---|---|

On Sun, 23 Dec 2018 at 15:11, XXX XXX <XXX.XXX@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi, yes I am – great to see it.

Think it's XXX – email below.

XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk

Sent: 23 December 2018 15:09

Subject: Today


Hi XXX,

Are you still on duty? I was just starting to scrub the XWH script in light of new police Q&A.

Do you know who's on for DfT?

Thanks,

XXX

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>--</p>  <p>Cabinet Office</p> | <p>XXX XXX National Security Communications Team (NSCT) Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office Communications E: XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk T: XXXXXXXX M: XXXXXXXX R: XXXXXXXX</p> |
|---|---|

ANNEX A:

Attendee List for 23rd December 2018 14:00 Coordination Call

DfT:

Lucy Chadwick

Lucy Bird

Natalie Golding

Gisela Carr

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

Suzanne Edmonds

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

No.10

PM Post

Stephen Higham

Cabinet Office:

David Hogan-Hern

Katharine Hammond

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

Home Office:

XXX XXX

Kingsley Green

XXX XXX

Sussex Police:

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

XXX XXX

MOD:

Robert Sawyers

CAA:

Peter Drissel

XXX XXX

Annex B:

Agenda for Gatwick Drone Disruption

Coordination Teleconference

23/12/18

14:00

The Dial-in details for this call are:

Dial in number for all participants: **XXXXXXXX**

Conference code: **XXXXXXXX**

Chair: Lucy Chadwick

1. Update on police investigation – Police to lead
2. Update on aviation operations – DfT to lead
3. Update on current (and potential future) deployment of HMG capability – Home Office and MOD to cover
4. Update on airport readiness – DfT to lead

Annex C:

GATWICK DRONE INCIDENT

XWH SCRIPT V12

1600 231218

TOP LINES

- We feel for all the passengers facing so much disruption as a result of this criminal act, which is irresponsible and completely unacceptable. We sincerely hope that everybody affected makes it home in time for the festive season.
- These drones were flown illegally, and the law couldn't be clearer that those found endangering aircraft could face a prison sentence.
- As part of the ongoing criminal investigation, Sussex Police confirmed the arrests of a 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman on suspicion of disrupting services of a civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. These two people were released without charge on Sunday 23 December and are no longer subjects of interest.
- The Police Inquiry continues at a pace to identify those responsible for the drone incursions, and they continue to actively follow lines of investigation.
- The Police continue to urge the public and passengers to be vigilant. Anyone with further information about the incident should call 101 and quote Operation Trebor. Alternatively, they can contact Crimestoppers.
- We welcome the news that Gatwick Airport is now open and continue to work with a range of stakeholders, including airports, to ensure passengers can keep travelling safely.
- Restrictions have been lifted around other airports to try and get people away this weekend, and we remain in close contact with Gatwick Airport. We are keeping the situation under constant review.
- Drone technology is changing rapidly, and we are working to ensure our laws and enforcement capabilities are evolving at pace to meet new threats. We are working across government and together with police and private sector partners to enhance the technological response available to tackle drone incidents in future.
- If you or someone you know is planning on using a drone this festive season, please ensure that you do so safely and legally, without endangering others. Visit <https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code> for guidance.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

- Sussex Police have confirmed that two arrests have been made in connection with the investigation. A 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of disrupting services of a civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. These two people were released without charge on Sunday 23 December and are no longer subjects of interest.
- All lines of enquiry remain open, and the Police investigations are ongoing as they continue to act to keep people safe from harm. The inquiry continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and Police continue to actively follow lines of investigation.
- We do not want to go into the details of the capabilities of the technology deployed. We looked at everything possible solution that could be deployed to mitigate this threat and we took a range of measures.
- The Police continue to urge the public and passengers to be vigilant. Anyone with further information about the incident should call 101 and quote Operation Trebor.

TRAVEL IMPACT

- We welcome the news that Gatwick Airport is now open and continue to work with a range of stakeholders, including airports, to ensure passengers can keep travelling safely.
- Restrictions have been lifted around other airports to try and get people away this weekend, and we remain in close contact with Gatwick Airport. We are keeping the situation under constant review.
- We are also speaking to insurance companies to see what can be done to help passengers.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

- Latest legislation has made it illegal to fly drones above 400 feet and within one kilometre of an airport boundary. We are also taking steps to ensure all drone users register their drone and take a safety test so they are aware of the law. We have also recently consulted on extending police powers to deal with those misusing drones.
- Drones have huge potential benefits for society, but we need to ensure they're used safely. If you or someone you know is planning on using a drone this festive season, please ensure that you do so safely and legally, without endangering others. Visit <https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code> for guidance.

Who were the suspects? Are you searching for others?

- As part of the ongoing criminal investigation, Sussex Police confirmed the arrests of a 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman on suspicion of disrupting services of a civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. These two people were released without charge on Sunday 23 December and are no longer subjects of interest.
- The Police continue to urge the public and passengers to be vigilant. Anyone with further information about the incident should call 101 and quote Operation Trebor.

Do you think this incident is now closed?

- This is an on-going criminal investigation and the Police continue to appeal for information. Anyone with further information about the incident should call 101 and quote Operation Trebor.

Why have you released the suspects?

- Acting on information we needed to thoroughly investigate. Both people have fully co-operated with our enquiries and we are satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick.

Why did you keep them in custody so long if they are innocent?

- We needed to thoroughly investigate the information that we received, and are now satisfied that they are not suspects.

Will you be paying compensation?

- We have not been asked to consider that at this stage. This was a lawful action, and it is right that we investigate all lines of enquiry. It is important to stress that we did not only focus on the two people arrested, they were only one line of enquiry among many.

Why were they named?

- We did not disclose their names and would not. It is important to remember that when people are arrested in an effort to make further enquiries it does not mean that they are guilty of an offence. We have not confirmed the identity of those arrested and nor do we intend to.

How many additional officers have you added to your team?

- It has flexed throughout the operation and investigation according to the information or intelligence we have had at the time.

How long will your operation last at Gatwick Airport?

- We will continue to ensure the safety of the public is our first priority and will support Gatwick airport in continuing to enhance prevention and response measures.

Are you confident you will find those responsible?

- We are doing all we can. This inquiry is significant. It continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and we continue to actively follow lines of investigation.
- We ask for the public's continued support by reporting anything suspicious, contacting us with any information in relation to the drone incidents at Gatwick.
- Gatwick Airport Limited has offered a £50,000 reward through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the criminal act that disrupted flights.
- If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately.

What are the challenges?

- We are actively managing and processing data from members of the public, looking at CCTV and closely liaising with a number of agencies. I am confident that everything is in place to detect and arrest those responsible; and, working with GAL, DfT and other agencies, measures are in place to prevent it happening again. Our priority is to ensure a tactical response to drone activity and to thoroughly investigate.

What other lines of enquiry are you pursuing?

- We are interviewing those who have reported sightings of drones, are carrying out extensive house to house enquiries and are carrying out forensic examination of a drone found near the perimeter of the airport near Horley, which is close to the last reported sighting.

When will you know the outcome of the forensics?

- We continue to FastTrack all of our forensic opportunities in the case to offer the investigating team the best opportunities to resolve this incident fully.

Is finding the drone a significant breakthrough in your investigations?

- It is too early to tell, we need to make sure we are thorough and explore every angle with these opportunities to get it right.

Are the anti-drone measures going to stay at the airport?

- For security reasons, we will not discuss the specifics of the tactics.

Was this a hostile state? Cyber-terrorist?

- As part of the ongoing criminal investigation, Sussex Police confirmed the arrests of a 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman on suspicion of disrupting services of a civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. These two people were released without charge on Sunday 23 December and are no longer subjects of interest.
- At present, there is no evidence to suggest this was an act by a hostile state.

Airport measures put in place? Can you use signal jamming to bring a drone down?

- Currently it is illegal to interfere with wireless telegraphy. There are exemptions in place for the law enforcement.

[If asked] We do not want to go into the details of the capabilities of the technology that was deployed on the scene. We looked at every possible solution that could be deployed to mitigate this threat and we took a range of measures.

What measures have been taken to counter drones?

- Latest legislation has made it illegal to fly drones above 400 feet and within one kilometre of an airport boundary.
- We are also taking steps to ensure all drone users register their drone and take a safety test so they are aware of the law.
- The Home Office also recently consulted on extending police powers to deal with those who misuse drones.
- We are working with industry on the development of counter-drone technology to protect against the malicious use of drones and we offer advice to businesses on specific protective security measures. We have consulted on how this technology and other countermeasures should be best used and will be responding soon.

Was enough done? Are you behind in technology?

- Technology is advancing quickly and we're working to keep up with it, including working with manufacturers on geofencing and nets.
- The Department for Transport has recently consulted on the use of counter-drone technology in the UK and we will continue to take forward work to develop government policy in this area.
- Drones have huge potential benefits for society, but we need to ensure they're used safely.

Media reports suggest the Secretary of State for Transport put new laws on drones on hold, is this true?

- These claims are a combination of nonsense and gross misrepresentation.
- The drones at Gatwick have been flown illegally. The Government changed the law **this year** to make it illegal to fly drones within 1,000 meters of an airport or above 400 feet.
- The law couldn't be any more clear: those found endangering aircraft face significant jail terms. Next year further laws will come into effect to ensure drone users must be registered and pass safety tests.

Role of the military?

- As the SofS has said, our armed forces are always there when needed to provide assistance and support to the Police.

Have you been in touch with foreign governments?

- Yes, we remain in contact with our allies on this issue.

What powers do the police already have? Do they need more? Resource?

- It is essential the police have the powers they need to do their job and we will work closely with the police to ensure this remains the case.
- The police have the powers to arrest and search individuals who are suspected of committing an offence.
- Under current powers, police can stop and search individuals where there are grounds to suspect the use of a drone will amount to a specific offence.

Will you introduce new legislation? Consultation?

- We have set out options for new legislation and we will be responding to our consultation on the use of drones soon.

Will you allow private companies to put in place jamming technology?

- We have consulted on the content and impact of new legislation relating to drones.
- As part of this we have considered measures on counter-drone technology, including the use of electronic effectors to disrupt drones.
- We will set out the next steps following this consultation soon.

When will the Home Office extend stop and search to investigate possession of drones?

- We recently consulted on how effective and proportionate it would be to extend the power to stop and search individuals to cover the misuse of drones to commit certain offences. We are considering responses to this consultation and will respond in due course.

KEY CONTACTS

Please send all correspondence to XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

COMMUNICATIONS LEADS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| NSCT | XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk | XXXXXXX |
| DFT | XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk | XXXXXXX XXXXXXX |
| MOD | Joseph.Hall207@mod.gov.uk | XXXXXXX |
| MET NCTPHQ | XXX.XXX@met.pnn.police.uk , XXX.XXX@npcc.pnn.police.uk | XXXXXXX XXXXXXX |
| Sussex Police | XXX.XXX@sussex.pnn.police.uk | XXXXXXX XXXXXXX |
| CAA | XXX.XXX@caa.co.uk | XXXXXXX |
| Home Office | XXX.XXX@homeoffice.gov.uk | XXXXXXX |

DUTY ROTAS

NSCT

- **Friday 21:** XXX XXX (PM) XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX
- **Saturday 22:** XXXXXXXX XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX **P:** XXXXXXXX
- **Sunday 23:** XXXXXXXX XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX **P:** XXXXXXX
- **Monday 24:** XXX XXX XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX
- **Tuesday 25:** XXX (AM) XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX **P:** XXXXXXX / XXX XXX (PM) XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXX **P:** XXXXXXX

- **Wednesday 26:** XXX (AM) XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXXX **P:** XXXXXXXX / XXXXXXXX (PM) XXX.XXX@cabinetoffice.gov.uk **W:** XXXXXXXX

DFT

- **Press Office:** XXXXXXXX
- **Friday 21:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk
- **Saturday 22:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk
- **Sunday 23:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk
- **Monday 24:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk
- **Tuesday 25:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk
- **Wednesday 26:** XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk, XXX.XXX@dft.gov.uk

Police statement at 1115 Saturday 22/12/2018

Superintendent James Collis said “As part of our ongoing investigations into the criminal use of drones which has severely disrupted flights in and out of Gatwick Airport, Sussex Police made two arrests just after 10pm on Friday (December 21).

“Our investigations are still on-going and our activities at the airport continue to build resilience to detect and mitigate further incursions from drones, by deploying a range of tactics.

“We continue to urge the public, passengers and the wider community around Gatwick to be vigilant and support us by contacting us immediately if they believe they have any information that can help us in bringing those responsible to justice.

“The arrests we have made are a result of our determination to keep the public safe from harm, every line of enquiry will remain open to us until we are confident that we have mitigated further threats to the safety of passengers.

“Anyone with information about the incident or who may have suspicions about the drone operators is asked to report online or call 101 quoting Operation Trebor. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of the airport, please dial 999 immediately.”

A 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman, both from Crawley, were arrested in the town on suspicion of disrupting services of civil aviation aerodrome to endanger or likely to endanger safety of operations or persons. They remained in custody at 11am on Saturday.

Sussex Police Lines 1100 Sunday 231218

Two people arrested in conjunction with the widespread disruption of flights at Gatwick Airport through the illegal use of drones have been released without charge on Sunday (23 December).

Sussex Police Detective Chief Superintendent Jason Tingley said: "Both people have fully co-operated with our enquiries and I am satisfied that they are no longer suspects in the drone incidents at Gatwick.

"It is important to remember that when people are arrested in an effort to make further enquiries it does not mean that they are guilty of an offence and Sussex Police would not seek to make their identity public.

"Our inquiry continues at a pace to locate those responsible for the drone incursions, and we continue to actively follow lines of investigation.

"We ask for the public's continued support by reporting anything suspicious, contacting us with any information in relation to the drone incidents at Gatwick."

Gatwick Airport Limited has offered a £50,000 reward through Crimestoppers, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the criminal act that disrupted flights.

If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers website](#). Payout on the reward will be made only if the information is given to Crimestoppers first.