

UK Airports Resume Flights After Technical Issue Grounds Over 150 Departures

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A significant technical fault with the UK's air traffic control system caused widespread disruption across several major airports, leading to the cancellation of more than 150 flights on . The problem affected key airports including Heathrow, Gatwick, and Edinburgh, resulting in delays and travel chaos for thousands of passengers.

The issue was identified early in the morning and led to a temporary suspension of departures as air traffic controllers worked to resolve the fault. Officials confirmed that the problem was technical and unrelated to any security threat or external factors.

Heathrow Airport, the busiest in the UK, saw a substantial number of flights cancelled or delayed. Gatwick and Edinburgh airports also experienced disruption, with both arrivals and departures affected throughout the day. Passengers were advised to check the status of their flights before travelling and to expect delays at airport terminals.

The UK's National Air Traffic Services (NATS) issued a statement acknowledging the fault and confirming that operations had resumed once the issue was resolved. "We experienced a technical problem affecting our air traffic control systems, which unfortunately resulted in flight cancellations and delays across several UK airports," the statement said. "Our teams worked swiftly to restore normal operations, and we are now gradually clearing the backlog."

Airlines affected by the disruption have been working to rebook passengers on alternative flights and provide assistance at the airports. Passengers are encouraged to contact their carriers directly for updated travel information and support.

While such technical faults are rare, the incident highlights the critical role of air traffic control in ensuring the safety and efficiency of air travel. Experts say regular maintenance and updates to the air traffic control infrastructure are essential to minimise the risk of such disruptions.

Some passengers took to social media to share their experiences of the delays and cancellations. While many expressed frustration, there was also understanding of the complex nature of air traffic management.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is monitoring the situation and will investigate the causes of the technical fault. They emphasised that passenger safety remains the highest priority in all operational decisions.

Airport staff have been commended for their efforts to manage the situation on the ground and assist travellers affected by the disruption.

Travel experts recommend that passengers allow extra time for journeys during peak periods and check official updates from airports and airlines before setting out.

This event comes at a time when UK airports are managing increased passenger volumes following the easing of travel restrictions. The smooth operation of air traffic control is vital to support the recovery of the aviation sector and maintain confidence in UK air travel.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.