



ACL Guidance

Treatment of cancellations due to planned Border Force industrial action

1. PURPOSE

The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) has announced industrial action by employees of UK Border Force between 23 and 31 December 2022 at London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Glasgow airports. To maintain operations, the Home Office may require airports to reduce passenger volumes. Reductions may be required at all airports and not just those where strike action is taking place.

The following paper provides guidance on ACL's treatment of cancellations as a direct result of this industrial action.

2. REFERENCES

AIRPORTS SLOT ALLOCATION (AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS 2021 OF DECEMBER 2021 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at United Kingdom airports as amended including by EU Regulation 2020/459 of 30 March 2020 and by Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/1477 of 14 October 2020.

3. APPLICATION OF ALLEVIATION

Cancellations at any airport, made as a result on complying with the required reduction, will be granted alleviation under Article 10(4)(b). ACL will consider requests for alleviation for consequential impact on the day prior to and after the strike dates. Carriers may be asked to demonstrate that such cancellations are as a direct result of the cancellations required due to the strike.

Alleviation will only be granted up to the percentage required reduction and if the strike goes ahead. Should the flights be serving other ACL airports, alleviation will be granted at both ends of the route. ACL will also advise the EUACA/WWACG of the strike action and request support for alleviation requests but ACL cannot guarantee that it will be granted at the other end of the route.

Cancelled operations that are alleviated will be counted as if operated and therefore the use it or lose target set at the hand back deadline remains valid.

4. PROCESS

If required each airport will determine the percentage reduction required to achieve the requested reduction. The requested reduction and any conditions for such reduction will be communicated by the airport.

Airlines in compliance with the request can take the following actions or a combination of these:

- a. Reduce arrival seats across the flights held (ensure to delink the record so as not reduce departing seats)
- b. Position in but operate a live flight out of the UK (amend the arrival service type to P)
- c. Cancel flights and seek alleviation

Airlines are requested to update the ACL database so that the airport can assess compliance and report to the Home Office. Any cancellation should include in the SI that the cancellations are related to the strike action.

Cancellations as a direct result of the strike made on the day of operation should be advised to ACL including a SI to ensure that the flights are alleviated.

On receipt, ACL will process the message and alleviate flights as necessary.

5. HISTORIC DETERMINATION

Historic determination will be in accordance with our policy which can be found [here](#).

6. UTILISATION OF RETURNED SLOTS/REINSTATEMENT OF FLIGHTS

Slots returned to ACL will not be reallocated or used for schedule adjustments unless it can be demonstrated to assist with peak spreading.

Airlines should not assume that the capacity returned will be available for them to utilise.

6. REVIEW

ACL will continue to review the guidance and update as necessary