

GIBA Statement on Guernsey's airport security situation

Chair, Tony Mancini says,

GIBA is concerned about the current arrangements for security at the airport. Since the refurbishment to increase the size of the security area the service seems to have deteriorated somewhat. Passengers are experiencing long delays just getting to security, which can have a knock effect for flights, and then the actual security process seems to take longer, with more scrutiny of hand luggage and more personal searches. It feels much more stringent and less efficient than most other airports in the UK and around the world.

Why does GIBA care about this? Two reasons. Firstly, from a personal perspective none of us enjoy the stress of travelling for work, especially when it involves an early start as it invariably does. The current delays and strict arrangements at security just make that worse, so the travelling experience becomes even more stressful.

That ties to the second, more significant reason for our concern. Our clients need to travel to see us. They also have choices about where they put their business. In particular they can choose to put business to Jersey. When there is little difference between the regulatory and tax regimes and the types of services available in finance centres, clients use other criteria to differentiate.

The ease of travel and overall experience is one of those criteria. Jersey has better airlines than Guernsey anyway so if potential clients also have an unfavourable experience at the airport, this will count against us. When we are competing for business it really does not help when the last experience someone has of the island is the security queue at the airport.