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25 November 2010

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Guernsey Airport warns of potential delays as Jersey Tower goes live**

Guernsey Airport is undertaking to open later to clear any possible backlog of passengers from delayed flights caused by Jersey's move to a new, £11 million air traffic control facility.

The processing of aircraft within the Channel Island Air Traffic Control Zone will be slowed for a short time after the move at the end of this month. This will allow additional safety margins while the new air traffic facility based in Jersey "goes live" and staff become accustomed to the new building, systems and operating procedures.

These restrictions will impact on Guernsey Airport, which also operates within the CI Zone. As a result some flights could be delayed on or immediately after Thursday 2 December, although inter-island services between Guernsey and Alderney are likely to be least affected.

Guernsey Airport Director Colin Le Ray said the situation was unavoidable as the CI Zone is under the ultimate control of staff in Jersey. However management and staff would liaise with the airlines, and work to minimise any disruption to passengers.

'The transition programme for the new facility has involved an extensive amount of formal training and mirroring of systems, however these additional arrangements for traffic over the first few days will provide a safety overhead for staff working at Jersey Airport,' he said.

'Regrettably this has the potential to impact on services operating to and from Guernsey Airport, but where flights cannot operate within normal airport hours extensions will be provided to airlines to allow later operation.

'Our priority is to minimise any disruption to passengers and help ensure everyone booked to travel will get away as soon as possible.'

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Currently the Jersey Facility is expected to be commissioned in the last week of November. If the 'go-live' date is subsequently delayed, Guernsey Airport will give further advice to passengers.

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