Emirates and the UK

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Emirates’ most recent passenger points in the UK included London (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted), Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Newcastle and Edinburgh, in addition to dedicated freighter services to London Heathrow.

Operating with care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

Emirates, along with all other aviation industry stakeholders, is navigating the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, Emirates’ foremost priority has been the health and safety of its customers, crew and communities.

As the crisis intensified, Emirates in March 2020 temporarily suspended scheduled passenger operations, except for special repatriation and evacuation flights. In response to the disruption to international freight capacity, Emirates also operated several freighter and ad hoc charter services to and from the UK to facilitate the supply of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and essential goods. On 21 May, Emirates resumed scheduled passenger operations including to London Heathrow, followed by Manchester in June and Glasgow in July. As demand for air travel recovers, Emirates remains ready to gradually resume its network in the UK.

Connecting UK regions

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Emirates’ multiple flights to the UK have facilitated the trade and timely transport of goods across the world, particularly to the Far East. In Newcastle, Emirates’ service contributed significantly to the growth of local business. In fact, Emirates transported the majority of the £310 million worth of annual exports out of Newcastle airport – before Emirates launched flights to Newcastle in 2007, annual exports by air totalled less than £20 million. Emirates regularly transports high value, time sensitive and specialty cargo such as luxury vehicles, automotive and engine parts, animals, pharmaceuticals, food, textiles, electronics, machinery, oil-well equipment, construction material and works of art into and out of the UK.

Impact on the British economy
Our commitment to the UK market throughout the years is demonstrated not only by this measured capacity growth, but also via the purchase of British goods and services as well as sponsorships of British entities. Emirates directly contributes over £602 million annually to the British economy through operational expenditures such as fuel uplift, over-flight costs, aircraft landing and handling costs, crew layover costs and area overheads, as well as advertising, promotions and sponsorships. However, the economic impact of Emirates’ operations in the UK by far exceeds direct expenditure and employment in the UK when taking into account supply chain economic activity as well – for example that induced by groundhandling and catering companies and their employees.

A loyal customer of British aerospace
In November 2019 Emirates confirmed an order for 50 Airbus A350-900 XWB aircraft to be delivered from 2023, which will be powered by Rolls Royce Trent XWB engines. Emirates is also the biggest customer of the Airbus A380 by a large margin with 123 aircraft ordered, which continue to be delivered. Emirates’ A350 and A380 purchases support thousands of jobs at Airbus, and among suppliers in the UK. One of the major components of these aircraft, the wings, are manufactured in Broughton and Filton.

In April 2015, Emirates placed an order for 217 Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engines to power 50 A380 aircraft. The US$9.2 billion deal was the largest order in Rolls-Royce’s history. Emirates continues its long term commitment to Rolls-Royce with its future A350 aircraft, having used its engines on previous Airbus A330 and A340, as well as Boeing 777 aircraft.

Sponsorships in the UK
Emirates’ numerous sponsorships in the UK spanning sports and iconic infrastructure, demonstrate the significance of this market. Emirates has held a shirt partnership with the Arsenal Football Club since 2006-07, and the latest extension of this partnership until the 2023-24 season makes it the longest running in the Premier League and the longest relationship in world sports. Emirates also holds the naming rights to Arsenal’s home ground, the Emirates Stadium, up to 2028 and is the title sponsor of the FA Cup, the oldest domestic club competition in the world. In addition, Emirates holds various other sponsorships in cricket, tennis, and horse racing in the UK. In 2011, Emirates signed a 10-year sponsorship of the UK’s first urban cable car named Emirates Air Line.

About Emirates
As of 2019, Emirates was one of the largest airlines in the world in terms of international passenger and freight carriage, with 268 aircraft in its fleet. Established in 1985, the company’s growth has been measured in line with the demand for air travel. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Emirates operated a global network of 157 destinations in 83 countries across six continents, independently of the three global airline alliances.

Since the early 1990’s, Emirates has published independently audited financial accounts in line with International Financial Reporting Standards which are available on www.emirates.com.

“Emirates has been in London since 1988 or ‘89. Our experience in dealing with them is they’re perfectly rational and completely commercial. We’ve seen no evidence of anything that would cause us concern.”

- Willie Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, International Airlines Group