

23 July 2020

## **LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT ANNOUNCES BELFAST CITY AIRPORT ROUTE FROM 1 OCTOBER**

- **Stobart Air, operator of Aer Lingus Regional, to base six ATR72-600 aircraft at Belfast City Airport**
- **Airline to operate up to three daily return flights from Leeds Bradford**
- **Commenting on the announcement, John Cunliffe, Aviation & Commercial Director at Leeds Bradford Airport, said: "We're delighted to be welcoming Aer Lingus Regional in launching daily flights to Belfast City Airport from October."**

Leeds Bradford Airport is to see the introduction of a service to Belfast City Airport from 1 October 2020 it was announced today.

Stobart Air, operator of Aer Lingus Regional, will base five ATR72-600 aircraft at Belfast City Airport.

The airline will operate up to three daily return flights from Leeds Bradford Airport to Belfast City Airport with fares starting from £34.99 one way including taxes.

Aer Lingus Regional, operated by Stobart Air, operates two routes from Leeds Bradford including Dublin and now Belfast City.

Stobart Air, following guidance from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), has implemented a number of enhanced health and safety measures to protect staff, crew and passengers. New measures include:

### **Enhanced aircraft cleaning:**

To ensure the wellbeing of passengers and crew, enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures have been introduced for the aircraft cabin, which are in addition to the existing aircraft cleaning schedule. Each aircraft, including seats, armrests and tray tables will be subject to a daily disinfection process which provides surface protection from viruses for 24 hours.

### **On board measures:**

Face coverings or masks are mandatory on all flights operated by Stobart Air for customers and cabin crew respectively, with the exception of small children and those who are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons. The face coverings can be in the form of a reusable cloth mask or a disposable mask and it is recommended that these are worn from the time passengers enter the departure airport to the time they leave their destination airport.

Initially, when flights resume, the in-flight service will be suspended to reduce interaction between crew and passengers. Passengers will be encouraged to remain seated while on board.

### **At the airport:**

Stobart Air have introduced new boarding and disembarkation procedures to reduce passenger interaction. Passengers will board and disembark the aircraft in small groups and according to seat row numbers. At the

boarding gate, customers will scan their own boarding card and show their passport or ID to the staff member, making this process contactless.

**Commenting on the announcement, Stobart Air Managing Director Andy Jolly said:**

*"As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Stobart Air has been challenged and we have worked hard over the past number of months to protect our airline and to position us for the future, once restrictions ease and passenger demand increases.*

*"Working with Belfast City Airport and Leeds Bradford Airport, along with our partners, Aer Lingus Regional we are pleased to establish a base at Belfast City to service flights to Leeds Bradford.*

*"High frequency day-return flights from Leeds Bradford to Belfast City Airport will cater for both business and leisure travellers for direct, convenient and cost-effective flights.*

*"We continuously strive to provide our passengers with frequent, convenient and affordable services. We look forward to welcoming our passengers on board this new route from Leeds Bradford from 1 October."*

**John Cunliffe, Aviation & Commercial Director for Leeds Bradford Airport, said:**

*"We're delighted to be welcoming Aer Lingus Regional in launching daily flights to Belfast City Airport from October. The connection between the two great cities of Leeds and Belfast is an important one for both leisure and business, with passengers benefitting from the option of returning the same day. This route perfectly complements our daily flights to Dublin and we're looking forward to welcoming passengers to LBA in Autumn."*

Flights from Leeds Bradford to Belfast start from £34.99 one way including taxes and are on sale now at [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com).

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors:**

**Aer Lingus Regional Leeds Bradford-Belfast flights will operate up to 3 times daily. The flight schedule is as follows:**

Mon – Sat			
Airport	Departure time	Airport	Arrival time
Belfast	06:50	Leeds Bradford	08:00
Leeds Bradford	08:30	Belfast	09:45
Monday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday			
Airport	Departure time	Airport	Arrival time
Belfast	14:55	Leeds Bradford	16:05
Leeds Bradford	16:35	Belfast	17:50
Daily excluding Saturday			
Airport	Departure time	Airport	Arrival time
Belfast	18:20	Leeds Bradford	19:30
Leeds Bradford	20:00	Belfast	21:15



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Pre-Covid, Stobart Air, operator of Aer Lingus Regional, operated over 900 flights weekly across 30 routes throughout Ireland, the UK and Western Europe.

Flying has been reduced as a result of reduced demand and in line with official travel guidelines during the pandemic.

The airline operates a fleet of 15 aircraft from Dublin, Cork, Shannon, Kerry and Donegal airports in Ireland, as well as operating across 13 UK airports. These key routes improve connectivity, choice and flexibility for both business and leisure travellers.

The gradual resumption of arrivals and departures at LBA follows months of preparation by staff. Working closely with airlines and partners, the airport has implemented a range of measures in line with the latest guidance from the Government to keep passengers and staff safe.

LBA recommends that all passengers refer to their airline's Covid-19 procedures ahead of flying, as there could be variation. The airport would also like to direct passengers to their dedicated LBA Coronavirus ad-vice page: <https://www.leedsbradfordairport.co.uk/coronavirus>

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