# Passenger arrested after assaulting air hostess during chaotic Tui flight from Gran Canaria



Dramatic new video footage has unveiled the alarming moment a 49-year-old passenger, Paul Self, was arrested after allegedly hitting an air hostess in the face during a flight from Gran Canaria to Birmingham. The incident, which unfolded during the flight's descent, sent waves of fear through the cabin as many passengers and crew members witnessed the chaotic outburst. Witnesses reported that the disturbance began with the passenger yelling that the plane was about to crash, escalating tensions as the pilot executed emergency measures to land safely.

As the situation took a turn for the worse, crew members attempted to quell Self’s erratic behaviour using a ‘restraint kit’. Unfortunately, their efforts were in vain, and the man reportedly reacted violently, striking an air hostess and leaving the staff visibly terrified. One eyewitness described the scene, stating, "One minute he was calm, then he was throwing blows. He was extremely erratic,” highlighting the unpredictable nature of his outburst.

The passenger's aggressive behaviour culminated in a distressing scene aboard the flight, with children reportedly crying amid the commotion. A cabin crew member was heard urgently imploring fellow passengers to remain seated as the situation escalated. Following the ordeal, passengers erupted in applause when police officers arrived to escort Self away, marking the end of what had been a tense hour for everyone involved. West Midlands Police confirmed that Self is facing three counts of common assault and is set to appear at Birmingham Magistrates Court.

Such incidents are not isolated cases; 2023 has seen a worrying trend in disruptive behaviour among airline passengers. Recent statistics reveal that Tenerife South Airport recorded 189 incidents involving disruptive passengers, marking it as the highest in Spain. This alarming figure was followed by Alicante and Palma de Mallorca, with 184 and 177 incidents respectively. The majority of these issues stemmed from non-compliance with crew instructions, verbal harassment, and, notably, an increase in physical attacks—rising by 67% compared to the previous year. This spike has prompted organisations like the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations and IATA to advocate for more stringent measures to deter such behaviour, including preventing the boarding of inebriated passengers.

Moreover, the past year has borne witness to a string of high-profile incidents of air rage that emphasise the ongoing challenges airlines face. For example, a TUI flight from Paphos was diverted after a similarly intoxicated passenger attempted to open an emergency exit mid-flight. Such terrifying behaviour disrupts not only the flight but also leads to severe distress among passengers, prompting airlines to offer compensation and support for those affected.

In recent months, even more incidents have made headlines, with reports of intoxicated passengers threatening crew and fellow travellers alike. One such distressing incident involved a British woman on a Ryanair flight who was forcibly removed after allegedly making a bomb threat and exhibiting aggressive behaviour. These occurrences underscore the urgent need for effective strategies to manage disruptive passengers, with many calling for a zero-tolerance policy towards violence on flights.

As airlines strive to maintain safety and order, they are faced with the delicate balance of managing fun holidays and ensuring that all passengers adhere to safety protocols. TUI UK & Ireland has reiterated its commitment to passenger safety, stating that they have a zero-tolerance policy for violent behaviour, emphasising the seriousness with which they regard such incidents. The company's spokesperson expressed regret that a solitary disruptive passenger’s actions affected others trying to enjoy their holiday return.

With ongoing discussions around airport safety and passenger behaviour, the hope is that better systems can be put in place to prevent future incidents, ensuring safer experiences for all travellers.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14761651/Shocking-moment-drunk-passenger-punches-air-hostess-plane.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.canarianweekly.com/posts/There-are-more-disruptive-passenger-incidents-on-flights-to-Tenerife-than-anywhere-in-Spain)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14761651/Shocking-moment-drunk-passenger-punches-air-hostess-plane.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/walsall/pelsall/2022/08/22/walsall-mans-ordeal-on-plane-after-intoxicated-passenger-tries-to-open-emergency-doors/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2024/05/27/drunk-man-thrown-off-tui-flight-assaulting-staff-20914452/), [[7]](https://www.royalgazette.com/court/news/article/20230808/uk-passenger-admits-assaulting-people-on-plane-causing-flight-to-divert/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/major-airline-boss-reveals-worst-flights-from-uk-for-drunk-passenger-chaos-including-scotland), [[6]](https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/1903518/tui-drunk-passenger-flight-glasgow-turkey-video)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14761651/Shocking-moment-drunk-passenger-punches-air-hostess-plane.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.canarianweekly.com/posts/There-are-more-disruptive-passenger-incidents-on-flights-to-Tenerife-than-anywhere-in-Spain> - In 2023, Tenerife South Airport reported 189 incidents involving disruptive passengers, the highest in Spain. Alicante and Palma de Mallorca followed with 184 and 177 incidents, respectively. The most common issues included non-compliance with crew instructions, verbal harassment, and excessive alcohol consumption. Physical attacks increased by 67% compared to 2022. The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations and IATA propose strategies like prevention and deterrence, including measures to prevent boarding of passengers showing signs of inappropriate behaviour or inebriation, and preventing passengers from bringing alcohol or drugs onto the plane.
3. <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/walsall/pelsall/2022/08/22/walsall-mans-ordeal-on-plane-after-intoxicated-passenger-tries-to-open-emergency-doors/> - In August 2022, a TUI flight from Paphos, Cyprus, to Manchester was diverted to Zagreb, Croatia, after an intoxicated passenger attempted to open the emergency exit mid-flight. The passenger was seen drinking and taking what appeared to be cocaine on board. After making alarming statements and trying to open the emergency door, the passenger was restrained by fellow passengers and off-duty officers. The incident led to significant delays and distress for passengers, with TUI offering compensation and support to those affected.
4. <https://www.ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/major-airline-boss-reveals-worst-flights-from-uk-for-drunk-passenger-chaos-including-scotland> - A report compiled by The Scottish Sun on Sunday highlights several recent air-rage incidents on Scottish flights. Notable incidents include a passenger urinating in the cabin and intimidating staff, a flight diverted due to a passenger's 'catalogue of unacceptable behaviour', and a drunken family brawl on a Ryanair flight. These incidents underscore the challenges airlines face with disruptive passengers and the need for effective management strategies.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2024/05/27/drunk-man-thrown-off-tui-flight-assaulting-staff-20914452/> - In May 2024, a TUI flight from Glasgow to Antalya was diverted to Newcastle after a 'drunken' passenger allegedly assaulted a cabin crew member and refused to surrender a bottle of gin. The flight was delayed by over five hours as police removed the passenger from the plane. Passengers expressed frustration over the incident, which led to significant delays and distress for those on board.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/1903518/tui-drunk-passenger-flight-glasgow-turkey-video> - In May 2024, a TUI flight from Glasgow to Antalya was forced to make an unscheduled landing in Newcastle due to a disruptive 'drunk' passenger. The passenger allegedly assaulted a cabin crew member and refused to surrender his alcohol. The incident resulted in a delay of over five hours for passengers, who were eventually able to continue their journey to Antalya.
7. <https://www.royalgazette.com/court/news/article/20230808/uk-passenger-admits-assaulting-people-on-plane-causing-flight-to-divert/> - In August 2023, a British man on a TUI flight to the Dominican Republic admitted to headbutting another passenger and assaulting two others, leading to the aircraft diverting to Bermuda. The court heard that one man suffered a gash to his eyebrow during the incident. The passenger was charged alongside another individual with verbally abusing crew on the flight and ignoring their instructions. Both pleaded guilty to all offences.