# British Airways faces mounting scandal over crew substance abuse and misconduct



A recent incident involving a British Airways steward has raised eyebrows and concerns about conduct among airline staff. During a flight from San Francisco to London, the steward was discovered dancing naked inside a business class toilet, much to the shock of fellow crew members and the flight's passengers. The commotion began when the flight crew noticed he had gone missing during the in-flight meal service, prompting a search that led to the unexpected find. According to reports, he was found "jigging up and down" in the toilet, suggesting he may have been under the influence of drugs.

This unusual episode unfolded with approximately 470 individuals onboard the aircraft. After his discovery, the steward was clothed in a spare pair of First Class pyjamas and relocated to a luxury seat in the First Class cabin for the continued duration of the ten-and-a-half-hour flight. A crew member commented, “We think the guy popped pills when he was meant to be working. The plane was cruising at 37,000ft over the Atlantic, but this bloke seemed to be higher than anyone else.” The incident has since turned into a police matter, with British Airways suspending the steward pending further investigation.

Such occurrences are not entirely isolated within the airline, revealing a worrying pattern of misconduct among its staff. Just last year, three British Airways crew members faced suspension for allegedly running naked through a hotel in Singapore following a flight. Reports indicated that they had smuggled alcohol from the plane to enhance their layover experience, resulting in unruly behaviour that culminated in a raucous game of 'spin the bottle'. British Airways, reflecting its stance on such matters, stated that they uphold the highest standards of professionalism among their employees and were investigating the incident thoroughly.

Furthermore, in November of this year, another incident came to light involving three crew members in Brazil who initially claimed to have been robbed but later faced scrutiny for suspected heavy drinking and drug use. Their apparent attempt to cover up their actions resulted in the cancellation of a key flight due to accusations of being too incapacitated to perform their duties. The airline expressed disappointment over their actions and reiterated its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy regarding substance abuse among staff.

This emphasis on maintaining decorum, however, has been challenged recently with even more troubling tales emerging from within British Airways. In September, pilot Mike Beaton was dismissed after it was revealed he was allegedly under the influence of cocaine, having engaged in erratic behaviour shortly before scheduled flights. This incident has underscored the airline's urgent efforts to remind staff of their responsibilities, including a renewed emphasis on reporting any misconduct, regardless of its source, as part of a broader initiative to instil a culture of accountability and respect within the company.

Given these incidents, it is evident that British Airways is navigating a complex crisis regarding staff conduct. The company is now tasked with balancing the public's trust and its employees' conduct, a challenge that requires stringent enforcement of its policies coupled with a commitment to fostering an environment where professionalism is not only expected but must be demonstrated consistently at all levels.

This series of events serves as a stark reminder of the pressures faced by airline personnel and the critical importance of adherence to professional standards, particularly in an industry where safety and customer service are paramount. As investigations continue into the recent flight, it remains to be seen how British Airways will rectify its internal culture and prevent further incidents from undermining public confidence in its operations.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062516/british-airways-steward-dancing-naked-drugs-binge)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/british-airways-crew-ran-naked-in-singapore-hotel), [[6]](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/three-crew-members-of-british-airways-suspended-after-running-naked-in-singapore-hotel-119070800516_1.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/british-airways-cabin-crew-lied-31450723), [[5]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/british-airways-tells-staff-report-31048899)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/disgraced-pilot-sacked-from-ba-after-cocaine-binge-before-flight-12970783)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062516/british-airways-steward-dancing-naked-drugs-binge), [[3]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/british-airways-cabin-crew-lied-31450723)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062516/british-airways-steward-dancing-naked-drugs-binge> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/british-airways-crew-ran-naked-in-singapore-hotel> - In July 2019, three British Airways crew members were suspended after allegedly running naked through a Singapore hotel. The incident occurred during a layover following a 14-hour flight from Heathrow Airport. The crew members had smuggled alcohol from the plane to 'have a good time' during their stopover. An inside source reported that there was 'snogging and stripping and fumbling between the crew members, who were all naked.' The crew members were sent home, and British Airways stated that they expect the highest standards of behaviour from their teams worldwide and are investigating the incident.
3. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/british-airways-cabin-crew-lied-31450723> - In November 2023, three British Airways crew members were accused of excessive drinking and drug use in Brazil. Initially, they reported being robbed, but investigations revealed they had lost their phones after a night of drinking and had consumed Class A drugs. The crew members are facing potential charges for falsely reporting a crime. The incident led to the cancellation of flight BA248 from Rio de Janeiro to London's Heathrow Airport on September 5, as the crew claimed to be too traumatised to perform their duties.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/disgraced-pilot-sacked-from-ba-after-cocaine-binge-before-flight-12970783> - In September 2023, British Airways pilot Mike Beaton was sacked after reports emerged that he snorted cocaine off a topless woman before attempting to fly a passenger plane back to London. Beaton, married and from Devon, was due to fly from Johannesburg to London but was instead flown to Heathrow as a passenger the next day, where he tested positive for drug use. British Airways confirmed that Beaton is no longer employed by the airline.
5. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/british-airways-tells-staff-report-31048899> - Following the sacking of pilot Mike Beaton in September 2023, British Airways urged staff to report drug use by colleagues. Beaton had boasted about snorting cocaine off a woman's bare breasts before attempting to fly 430 passengers back to the UK. The airline's zero-tolerance policy was reinforced, and employees were reminded of their obligation to report any concerns, even if they concern close colleagues.
6. <https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/three-crew-members-of-british-airways-suspended-after-running-naked-in-singapore-hotel-119070800516_1.html> - In July 2019, three British Airways crew members were suspended after allegedly running naked through a Singapore hotel. The crew members, two men and a woman, had smuggled alcohol from the plane during their layover following a 14-hour flight from Heathrow Airport. They engaged in a game of 'spin the bottle,' leading to the dare of running naked in the hotel corridor. British Airways stated that they expect the highest standards of behaviour from their teams worldwide and are investigating the incident.
7. <https://www.workingsolutionsnyc.com/blog/british-airways-crews-drunk-naked-antics-in-a-singapore-hotel> - In July 2019, three British Airways crew members were reported to have run naked through a Singapore hotel after a drunken game of 'spin the bottle.' The crew had smuggled alcohol from the plane to their hotel room during a layover following a 14-hour flight from Heathrow Airport. An inside source reported that there was 'snogging and stripping and fumbling between the crew, who were all naked.' The incident led to the crew members being sent home, and British Airways stated that they do not tolerate unruly behaviour by colleagues.