



GUERNSEY'S
AIRLINE
aurigny



Skybus

NEWS RELEASE

24 March 2026

Aurigny & Skybus take clear steps to ensure reliable & robust service on Alderney lifeline routes

Following Sunday's demonstration at Alderney airport which raised concerns relating to the air services provided to the island community by Aurigny, a commitment was made in person by Nico Bezuidenhout, Aurigny's Chief Executive Officer, to provide a public update on the airline's progress in ensuring robust and reliable air services to and from Alderney.

While in Alderney, the Chief Executive expressed the airline's regret for inconvenience suffered by the community due to flight disruption since the transition of aircraft to secure the long-term future of Alderney's air services began on 1 November 2025.

Controllable flight disruptions have, nevertheless, shown a marked decline since the introduction of the Twin Otter.

However, weather-related disruptions have increased materially to 137 flights cancelled. This means weather conditions have been the cause of more than 80% of delays during the first two months of the year. Nico also stated that, apart from weather issues, there have been some cancellations for operational or technical reasons. The company will do all that it can to reduce this type of cancellation as well as improve service recovery in the wake of weather disruptions.

Since November 2025, Aurigny's commercial activity has concentrated on increasing passenger numbers for the new Twin Otter services. Alderney routes are featured more frequently in the airline's promotional campaigns. Extra capacity has also been placed on sale for Alderney Week, to support a vital period in the annual calendar.

So far, the dedicated promotional activity has delivered 1,700 incremental passengers and over 14,000 passengers are already booked on Alderney services for the coming summer season, which represents a significant improvement on bookings taken at the same time last year.

Yesterday, Kevin George, Chairman at Aurigny, and Nico Bezuidenhout met with Jonathan Hinkles, Skybus CEO, and Stuart Reid, CEO of the Skybus holding company to review key milestones for the successful delivery of the Alderney schedule over the coming summer season, and to provide further assurance to the public.

Kevin George, Chairman at Aurigny, stated:

“Both the Board and Management at Aurigny take the concerns raised by the local population and political representatives in Alderney extremely seriously. While our controllable performance has clearly been better since the introduction of the Twin Otter compared to the same period last year, we are determined that future performance will build further on these foundations.

“Our aim is for all stakeholders to share our confidence in the future and that is why we are taking immediate measures together with Skybus to strengthen operational robustness and ensure operational performance to the highest standards well into the future.”

Following this meeting, Aurigny and Skybus can confirm progress with the Twin Otter fleet and crew training, and commit to the following developments:

DHC 6 Twin Otter Aircraft:

1. Skybus confirmed that the second Twin Otter aircraft will be on island in Guernsey from the Easter holiday weekend. From this point onwards, two aircraft in the Skybus livery will be available for services to/from Alderney and provide the operational back up of a second aircraft.
2. The first Twin Otter aircraft (MSN299) to be permanently dedicated to the Aurigny operation is expected to receive its final approvals from the UK Civil Aviation Authority in the coming days, after which the aircraft will be added onto the Skybus Air Operator Certificate.
3. Initially, Skybus will operate this aircraft, which has been newly rebuilt, on their own services for a six- to eight-week period. The aircraft, bearing the registration G-NETS, is expected to be in Guernsey in late May, when it will become the primary aircraft assigned to Alderney services.

An additional Skybus-liveried aircraft, based in Guernsey, will serve as a full-time on-site backup.

4. MSN 664, a sister aircraft to the Twin Otter with the registration G-NETS, has been secured by Skybus and will arrive in Land's End at the end of May, where it will undergo its re-certification process.
5. The second aircraft, after its registration and bedding-in period, will then be assigned to Alderney services from the start of October 2026.
6. By October 2026, all Alderney services will be delivered by the two dedicated Twin Otter aircraft, proudly displaying Aurigny's livery. During times of annual aircraft maintenance, or should both Aurigny-liveried aircraft be unserviceable at the same time for any reason, a Skybus-liveried Twin Otter will serve as a backup aircraft.

Skybus Crews:

1. Recruitment for dedicated crew in the service of Alderney operations has been completed, and training has been in progress for some time. Training will, progressively, be completed by the end of June.

2. Between now and the end of June, the 'lifeline' services will be supported by dedicated Alderney crew as they complete their training, and when necessary, by existing fully qualified Skybus crews.
3. Crew training has been impeded by poor weather conditions, and by a lack of aircraft availability following damage caused by Storm Goretti. Skybus has contracted additional crew training resource to accelerate the process.

Medevac service:

Now fully in place, with a second stretcher fit ordered. For the record, as of 24 March, there have not been any callouts since the new service has been in place.

Following rumours circulating in the community, Aurigny and Skybus can confirm categorically to the States of Alderney and the community that:

1. Cross wind limitations for the DHC 6 Twin Otter in Alderney are the same as for the Dornier 228 NG. The aircraft has the same night-time flying capability as the Dornier 228 NG and boasts superior performance in wet weather conditions at Alderney Airport.
2. Since the introduction of the Twin Otter in November 2025, Alderney's air services have seen a lower rate of flight disruption due to technical reasons.
3. Payload remains constrained due to fuel availability at Alderney Airport, which can impact the number of passengers and baggage that can be carried on occasion. This especially impacts services to and from Southampton if extra fuel has to be carried due to inclement weather. Aurigny and Skybus fully support the restoration of a reliable fuel supply at Alderney.

Yesterday afternoon, a meeting took place between the States of Alderney with management from both Aurigny and Skybus to discuss ongoing issues relating to the status of the air services to and from Alderney.

A joint press release relating to the outcomes from this meeting will be published in the near future.

ENDS

Issued by Rebecca Lane – Orchard.

If you have any questions, please contact aurigny@orchardpr.com or call 01481 251251

About Aurigny

Founded in 1968, Aurigny is one of the longest-serving regional airlines in Europe and is owned by the States of Guernsey. With over five decades of continuous service, Aurigny plays a vital role in connecting the Channel Islands with the UK and Europe, operating lifeline routes to Alderney, Southampton, and Gatwick. The airline currently operates a fleet of ATR and Dornier aircraft, providing essential connectivity for both residents and visitors. Aurigny remains committed to supporting the wellbeing of the islands through safe, efficient, and customer-focused air services.

On Time Performance (excluding weather and ATC delays) within 15 minutes for December 2025: 75%