



Source: City A.M. {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Wednesday 13, April 2022
Page: 3
Area: 147 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 85738 Daily
Ad data: page rate £8,000.00, scc rate £33.00
Phone:
Keyword: Easyjet

Easyjet blames vetting delays for travel chaos

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EASYJET boss Johan Lundgren has claimed security vetting procedures, rather than a staff shortage, are contributing to chaotic scenes at airports amid a host of cancellations.

Lundgren said yesterday the airline had already recruited most of the staff needed to fulfil the carrier's flight schedules, but many were waiting to be approved by the Department for Transport (DfT).

"We haven't been struggling as such to recruit cabin crew," Lundgren said. "We have recruited some 1,100 members and we have a relatively small amount left to recruit.

"It's true there is a lag, we have about 100 people today who

are awaiting ID clearance with DfT."

Because of a spike in the number of Covid-19 infections among its UK staff, **Easyjet** was forced to delay more than 300 services over the last seven days, which represented between four and five per cent of total flights departing from the UK.

The company said it was working alongside the government to ensure that cancellations, which have thrown Brits' easter travel plans into chaos, are soon a thing of the past. The carrier is not alone, with British Airways reporting staff issues too.

It came as **Easyjet** reported a reduction in losses for the six months to the end of March as a result of "self-help" measures and a "continued cost focus". The carrier was additionally confident that operations are set to match pre-pandemic 2019 levels this summer.

