

Passing through security at the airport in the UK

Passing through security

- Security searches are carried out on all passengers before they're allowed to board the plane. This currently involves walking through a detector arch or new style body scanner.
- The new style scanners will not show your naked body, only a general body shape. The security staff ask to search you further if any areas of interest are highlighted.
- Staff are trained to handle sensitive issues respectfully.
- Your scan will be permanently deleted after it's been assessed by a security officer.
- At this stage, any passenger may be selected for an additional search. Passengers can be selected at random, or because of an alarm on the equipment.



- If the security officer does want to look more closely at your urostomy, they may pass over it with a wand. Or they may ask you to touch your bag, then they will wipe your hands or possibly wipe around the outside of your urostomy bag. This will take place in the general security area, with a member of airport staff present. It will take just a few seconds.
- If you wish, you can ask to be taken to a private room, which will be very close by.
- Should an enhanced hand-search in private be required, you may have a companion with you, and the search will be carried out by a security staff member of the same sex as you.
- You shouldn't be asked to remove your urostomy bag.

Helpful tips:

- It can help to wear a sunflower lanyard and carry a travel certificate.
- You may want to change your urostomy bag just before going through security.

Links:

- <https://www.caa.co.uk/passengers/before-you-fly/am-i-fit-to-fly/health-information-for-passengers>
- <https://www.gov.uk/airport-rights>

These bullet points formed part of the 'Travelling with a urostomy' webinar held on 11 April 2024 by the Urostomy Association. You can find out more about travelling with a urostomy by visiting urostomyassociation.org.uk/resources/travelling-with-confidence.

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