EasyJet's operating chief resigns as anger grows over cancelled flights

EasyJet's chief operating officer has resigned amid growing anger over flight cancellations.

The airline has axed thousands of flights in recent months, including many on the day they were expected to leave for destinations.

EasyJet recently announced <u>plans to cut more flights over the</u> <u>busy summer period</u> and apologised to customers for failing to "deliver the service they have come to expect from us".

The company said chief operating officer Peter Bellew was leaving to "pursue other business opportunities".

He has been at the company since 2019, having previously served in the same role at Ryanair.

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Chief executive Johan Lundgren said: "I would like to thank Peter for his hard work and wish him well.

"Everyone at EasyJet remains absolutely focused on delivering a safe and reliable operation this summer."

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Last month trade union Unite claimed there was a "lack of leadership" within EasyJet and said Mr Bellew should be "taking control of this situation".

Like many airlines, EasyJet has been struggling with staff shortages, increased demand for travel after the lifting of COVID restrictions, and long wait times to get security clearance for new recruits.

The company's cabin crew in Spain also <u>voted to strike</u> for nine days in July to demand wage increases, which has already led to some flight cancellations.

Sky News' business presenter Ian King said it appears that Mr Bellew has been made the "fall guy" for the airline's problems.

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EasyJet has appointed David Morgan as interim chief operations officer.

He has been with the company since 2016.

"I am pleased that operations will be in the very capable hands of David Morgan who can move seamlessly into this role having previously led the operation, as interim chief operating officer, throughout 2019," Mr Lundgren said.

"David has significant experience and deep knowledge of the business and operation, and will provide strong leadership for the airline this summer."