



Christchurch International Airport

Delivering secure, flexible operations in
a complex aviation environment.



security.gallagher.com

Christchurch International Airport is the South Island's primary gateway, welcoming close to seven million passengers each year. Operating both domestic and international services within a single terminal, the airport must carefully manage how people move through its spaces, ensuring strict separation between areas while maintaining a smooth passenger experience.

A Mission That Cannot Wait

In a highly regulated environment governed by Civil Aviation requirements, Christchurch International Airport needs absolute confidence in its ability to control, monitor, and report on access across the entire site.

Gallagher Security has partnered with Christchurch International Airport for over a decade, supporting the evolution of its security systems as operational demands have grown. This long-standing relationship has enabled the airport to continually adapt its approach, building a security environment that brings together control, flexibility, and operational efficiency.

The Challenge

Running domestic and international operations from a single terminal introduces significant complexity. Passenger flows must be tightly managed to ensure strict separation between travelers and secure zones at all times.

At the same time, the airport operates as a busy, multi-tenant environment. Airlines, retail stores, cafés, tourism operators, and service providers all rely on access to different parts of the terminal throughout the day. This constant movement creates a dynamic environment where security must remain uncompromised, even as operational needs shift.

Even a single change, such as switching a gate for an incoming flight, can have flow-on impacts across multiple access points, requiring fast, coordinated adjustments to maintain compliance and efficiency.

Overlaying this is the need to meet strict regulatory requirements by providing full visibility and control of all movements within restricted areas at any time.

The Solution

Using Gallagher Command Centre, Christchurch International Airport has deployed a highly adaptable access control system that underpins its security operations.

Working with Gallagher Security's trusted Channel Partner Evotek, the airport has progressively expanded its use of Command Centre over time, choosing the solution for its ability to deliver flexibility and scalability that could evolve alongside the airport's operational requirements.

The system automatically controls access and security. Staff select a flight scenario, and it sets up doors, restricted areas, and passenger pathways accordingly.

This replaces what was previously a complex and time-intensive manual process with one that is near instant and reliable. Changes that once required coordination across multiple teams can now be executed in seconds, reducing operational overhead and minimising the risk of human error.



Managing Complexity at Scale

Behind the scenes, the system has been configured to handle thousands of potential operational scenarios. Every combination of arriving and departing flights, domestic and international requirements, and access pathways has been mapped and tested.

This enables the airport to dynamically adjust to changing conditions while maintaining strict security boundaries. Once a configuration is activated, passenger movement is tightly controlled.

The result is a high level of confidence that all regulatory requirements are consistently met, regardless of how operations shift throughout the day.

Visibility, Compliance, and Control

Christchurch Airport has continued to enhance its security platform, including integrating CCTV into their Gallagher system. This provides operators with a unified view of events, combining access data with real time video to support faster, more informed decision making.

Reporting is another critical component. The airport can quickly generate detailed records of movements across the site, supporting both routine audits and real-time investigations. What once required significant manual effort can now be completed in moments, strengthening both responsiveness and compliance.

This ongoing evolution reflects the airport's confidence in the platform, expanding its use of Gallagher technology as the benefits have become clear across day-to-day operations.

“

We have complete confidence that our system maintains all required security boundaries. There's no ability for passengers to mix where they shouldn't, and if something does happen, we know immediately. It's also incredibly flexible, what used to take significant effort can now be done in just a few clicks.

”

Vaughan Kirkland, Christchurch International Airport

Responding When It Matters Most

The flexibility of the Gallagher system becomes particularly valuable during periods of disruption or change.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, the airport needed to rapidly introduce new passenger pathways and manage multiple categories of arrivals simultaneously. Using Gallagher products, the team was able to configure and control these flows within the existing terminal environment, ensuring safe separation without impacting overall operations.

In emergency situations, temporary changes to access control can be implemented quickly, allowing the airport to respond in a controlled and coordinated way.



Driving Operational Efficiency

While security is the primary focus, the system also supports more efficient day-to-day operations.

Automating access control and gate configuration reduces the need for manual intervention and enables more flexible use of infrastructure. For airlines, this can mean reduced reliance on aircraft towing and faster turnaround times. For the airport, it creates a more streamlined and responsive operating environment.

“We have complete confidence that our system maintains all required security boundaries. There’s no ability for passengers to mix where they shouldn’t, and if something does happen, we know immediately. It’s also incredibly flexible, what used to take significant effort can now be done in just a few clicks,” says Vaughan Kirkland, Security and Operational Resilience Manager at Christchurch International Airport.

For Christchurch International Airport, security is not just about restriction. It enables safe, efficient movement in a complex, ever-changing environment. With Gallagher Security in place, the airport has built a system that combines control, flexibility and confidence, supporting secure operations today while laying a strong foundation for the future.



Information contained in this document is intended for general information only. While every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy as at the date of the document, there may be errors or inaccuracies and specific details may be subject to change without notice. Copyright © Gallagher Group Limited.



Talk to us today

Join us on [in](#) [v](#) [f](#) [X](#)

security.gallagher.com

08/2026