

**PRESS RELEASE
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BTA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD DIRECTORS

3rd October 2023: The Business Travel Association (BTA) welcomes three new members to its Executive Board of Directors: Rachel Tonge, VP SME Client Management EMEA at American Express Global Business Travel (Amex GBT), Vicki Williams, Country Manager UKI at TravelPerk and James Diaz, UK CEO at Travel Planet.

As new members of the BTA Executive Board, Tonge, Williams and Diaz will use their experience and insight to help the BTA achieve its commercial goals and demonstrate the vital impact of business travel to the UK economy.

Rachel Tonge is VP SME Client Management EMEA at [Amex GBT](#), where she leads a team that offers choice, value and experience to customers. She has worked across different roles at Amex GBT, including UK General Manager and Strategic Global Transformation.

With over 20 years in the industry, Vicki Williams is the UKI Country Manager at [TravelPerk](#), using her experience to scale the existing team and deliver an innovative product-market fit to existing customers and new potential prospects. Previous roles at Click Travel and Amex GBT include Director of Customer Solutions and Head of Implementation, and she remains committed to optimising leading edge tech and a trusted customer centric approach.

James Diaz joined [Travel Planet](#) in 2021, drawn to Travel Planet's country strategy and culture, as it entered the UK market in late 2018. Before Travel Planet, James worked at Amex GBT and Amex GCP, focusing on sales and global business development respectively. James entered the travel industry after running an executive chauffeur company in London, which he sold to ComfortDelgro, a Singaporean transport giant.

Suzanne Horner, Chair of the BTA said: "We are delighted to welcome three new voices, Rachel Tonge, Vicki Williams and James Diaz to our Executive Board. These exciting appointments bring fresh perspectives and a wealth of expertise to our Boardroom. We are already anticipating the impact their unique contributions will bring to our strategic vision."

Clive Wratten, CEO of the BTA said: "It's fantastic to see our Executive Board growing, especially with such young talent. I'm confident that our new Directors will each play a key role in helping the BTA navigate the challenges the travel industry faces in the post-pandemic world."

Rachel Tonge, VP SME Client Management EMEA at Amex GBT, said: "I'm thrilled to be joining the BTA Executive Board. As an industry, we need to keep our focus on improving customer experiences. I'm looking forward to supporting BTA members and partners in delivering the best customer service experience possible."

Vicki Williams, UKI Country Manager at TravelPerk said: "As a huge advocate for delivering a seven-star experience throughout the entire customer lifecycle, joining the BTA Executive Board is an

incredible opportunity to collaborate with industry peers and ensure we are always striving to push boundaries. I am so excited to get started to help change the industry for the better.”

James Diaz, UK CEO at Travel Planet, said: “Joining the BTA Executive Board is a fantastic opportunity to really evaluate how the travel industry needs to develop. I want to work with the rest of the Board to find out how BTA members and partners can best optimise their processes, increase their revenue and foster a culture that they’re proud of.”

*****ENDS*****

Notes to Editors

Images: Follow the links below to download images of the BTA’s new Board Directors Rachel Tonge, Vicki Williams and James Diaz.

About the BTA

The BTA is the authority on business travel. Working collaboratively across the industry and with the government to promote the integral role of business travel and events to the wider economy.

Originally founded in 1967, the BTA has a diverse membership and roster of industry partners. It’s TMC membership accounts for over 90% of UK expenditure on managed business travel, delivering value for money and great service to business travellers in the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. The BTA focuses on delivering practical solutions to challenges and market changes, as well as supporting best practice, sustainability, and the well-being of travellers.

For more information on BTA please visit: www.thebta.org.uk or call 020 3657 7010.

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