

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **Business Travel Association calls for urgent Government support as £10 billion industry faces collapse**

The BTA (Business Travel Association) today called on the Government to urgently put in place a number of support measures to save the vital business travel industry from the prospect of collapse.

In letters to the Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, the CEO of the BTA, Clive Wratten, stressed the enormous impact of COVID-19 on business travel and the industry's long term importance to the UK economy.

On behalf of the business travel industry, Wratten has called on the Government to quickly undertake the following measures:

- Low cost and easily obtained lines of credit to be made available for businesses for a minimum of one year, or until the economic recovery can begin
- A three-month Business Rates holiday with scope to extend for a further three months if required
- A three-month National Insurance & Pension Contribution payment holiday with scope to extend if required

The UK business travel sector generates £10 billion in revenue every year and currently employs over 12,000 people located right across the UK. Many employees have already been required to take reductions in their pay, and without a package of support from the Government, many more will lose their jobs as the COVID-19 crisis continues and businesses fail.

Clive Wratten, CEO of the BTA, says: "Many travel management companies have suffered huge losses in revenue and are now facing a cash flow crisis. These are strong businesses that are vital enablers for the UK economy, but the sad reality is that many could fail before a demand for business travel resumes.

"Once this crisis ends, the business travel industry will play a vital role in the UK's economic recovery. Business travellers are the people who forge the deals and build the relationships which make global trade possible. For our industry to get to this point, we must first weather the current storm, and we call on the Government to help save our industry from collapse."

**ENDS**



### **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](http://www.thebta.org.uk) or call 020 3657 7010.

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