

GBTA / BTA / ITM Advocacy Statement

[GBTA](#), [BTA](#) and [ITM](#) issued the following statement on 21 November 2025 representing the business travel industry and their collective members related to potential impacts to the sector and the market as the UK government prepares to announce its Autumn Budget on 26 November 2025.

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Spokesperson: Clive Wratten, CEO at Business Travel Association

“Increasing the cost of travelling for work risks undermining growth at the very moment the UK economy needs it most.

“As we approach the Budget, our members are particularly concerned by reports of a new overnight visitor levy, a further rise in Air Passenger Duty (APD), and the potential introduction of a pay-per-mile levy on electric vehicles. Each of these measures, in isolation, adds friction to the UK’s economy. Taken together, they risk sending a signal that travelling for work, which is a key driver of national productivity, is being discouraged rather than supported.

“An overnight visitor levy may appear modest, but for regional cities competing for conferences, investment and talent, it becomes a direct deterrent. Overnight levies will hit those very areas the Government is seeking to level up, penalising travellers whose visits fuel local economies.

“Another increase in APD, already one of the world’s highest and most complicated aviation taxes, risks eroding the UK’s competitiveness as a place to do business. APD is not simply a passenger charge; it is a tax on global connectivity that directly penalises UK plc for engaging in international trade.

“Consider an economy class flight to a trade partner like India, with whom just this year we signed a free trade agreement. The standard APD rate on that long-haul business journey is currently set to be £102 per passenger. This is not a necessarily cost for travelling boardroom executives; it’s more commonly for frontline professionals delivering practical work. It’s a policy that is profoundly counterintuitive, actively penalising the very business travel needed to maximise the benefit of a crucial new trade deal.”

“We also note speculation around a pay-per-mile charge on EVs. While we agree that future road taxation must be sustainable, an early levy risks sending mixed messages about the UK’s commitment to greener corporate travel. If the Government wants to shift travellers toward low-carbon alternatives, then rapid railway reform, reliable services and modern ticketing must come first.

“Across all these measures, the BTA, GBTA and ITM stand ready to work with the Government on solutions that drive economic growth without inhibiting business travel. Business travel isn’t a luxury; it’s how the UK wins investment, delivers services and keeps supply chains running. We require a travel system that is affordable, reliable and competitive globally.”

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About BTA | The Business Travel Association ([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

About GBTA | The Global Business Travel Association ([GBTA](http://www.thebta.org.uk)) is the world's premier business travel and meetings trade organization serving stakeholders across six continents. GBTA and its 9,000+ members represent and advocate for the \$1.57 trillion global business travel and meetings industry. GBTA and the GBTA Foundation deliver world-class education, events, research, advocacy, and media to a growing global network of more than 28,000 travel professionals and 125,000 active contacts. For more information, visit [GBTA.org](http://www.thebta.org.uk) and [GBTAFoundation.org](http://www.thebtafoundation.org).

About ITM | The Institute of Travel Management ([ITM](http://www.itm.org.uk)) is the leading professional body for corporate travel management in the UK and Ireland. We are a not-for-profit, membership-led organisation, founded in 1956 to bring together professionals from all corners of the business travel industry. Our community includes travel buyers, suppliers, consultants, technology providers and service partners, working across a wide range of sectors including aviation, accommodation, ground transport, risk management and more.

We are proud to represent a diverse membership base of individuals, including corporate travel buyers. Our strength lies in this breadth of representation and the balanced dialogue it enables. For more information, visit www.itm.org.uk