

# THE BTA BUZZ

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Welcome to the first edition of the BTA Buzz, our new initiative for 2024 aimed at providing you with exclusive insights into the work being done at the BTA on behalf of our valued members. In this update, we will be sharing some exciting developments that have taken place in January 2024.

by Clive Wratten



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO WITH GOVERNMENT?

January saw me have a productive meeting with the Shadow Minister for roads to discuss electric vehicle infrastructure and the cost of electric vehicles. I also raised concerns about the state of UK railways and how it impacts business travellers. I will keep you informed when / if progress is made.

I also submitted a paper to the Shadow Minister outlining all the issues discussed in the meeting. Which can be read by clicking [here](#).

I met with the DfT team responsible for monitoring how our industry is helping passengers with accessibility issues as they have a particular interest in business travellers. The BTA will be investigating and discussing this subject more later in the year and I ask that all members get involved if possible.

DISCUSSIONS ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE, UK RAILWAYS AND  
IMPACT ON BUSINESS TRAVELLERS





# **GREAT BRITISH RAIL TRANSITION TEAM**

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I had the pleasure of meeting with the Great British Rail Transition Team (GBRTT) to discuss the implications of the rollout of Pay as you go (PAYG) to the business travel sector. Ongoing discussions are taking place, and we will provide updates as soon as we have more information.

I also met with Rail Development Group to discuss rail reform, rail data and rail distribution. Some good discussions and a lot more work to be done on behalf of TMCs in the year ahead. I will keep you updated!



## **BTA ACTIVITY**

Our BTA Generation Board has also been hard at work planning their objectives for 2024. This critical shadow board ensures that the voice of the next generation of leaders and managers is heard. We are excited about their ideas and look forward to sharing their progress with you throughout the year.

Furthermore, an accommodation sector conference took place where various topics were discussed, including shifting trends in hotels, impacts of Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) on rates, rate challenges in 2024, and sustainability trends in hotels. This valuable insight will help us better understand the needs and preferences of our members in this sector.

To enhance collaboration between airlines and Travel Management Companies (TMCs), I met with the IATA customer experience team in Madrid. With NDC still a hot topic and One Order gathering momentum we need to engage closer with IATA. Your association is committed to ensuring that TMCs have a voice in future airline developments, and we will provide further updates on this front.



## WHAT'S BEING WORKED ON?

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I also wanted to highlight some projects we are currently working on behalf of our members, which will be shared with the media and government. These include a white paper on the needs of the Business Travel sector from the railways, as well as a white paper on the impact of airport drop off and pick up fees, and the significant increase in charges to businesses and travellers. These initiatives aim to address key issues affecting our industry. Both papers will be shared with members, and I hope you use these documents to help spread the word on the issues faced by you and your customers.

To dispel the myth that business travel is solely about people in suits, we are developing an A to Z of business travel. This simply guide will showcase the diverse reasons people travel on business and highlights the role of the TMC. Designed to educate government officials, civil servants and the public primarily but I hope its of use to members too.

Lastly, we will be sharing a review of BTA activities in 2023 with our members and partners. It is essential for us to reflect on our achievements and learn from past experiences as we continue to grow and improve.

# THANK YOU

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Thank you for your continued support as members of the BTA. We value your feedback and encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or suggestions.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates in future editions of the BTA Buzz!

See you soon!

Clive

