



Media Release

**Immediate Use
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High Speed Rail – ‘One Size Fits All’ Doesn’t Apply

Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of BATA, responding to suggestions that rail could replace short haul flight from Heathrow said:

“High speed rail has had some impact since it started operating from Waterloo, but a “one size fits all” approach doesn’t and can’t apply to travel between the UK and the Continent and indeed within the UK. Being able to conduct trips from Heathrow to short haul destinations by air and therefore not needing an overnight stay will be more attractive to many people than the current rail journey times. The concepts of connectivity and good air links are key, when considering Heathrow’s importance as a vital piece of national transport infrastructure.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- 1) BATA represents UK registered airlines covering the scheduled, charter and freight sectors. Its members account for 85% of UK airline output.
- 2) For more information and to arrange interviews contact Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General on 07767 660 658 or 020 7222 9494.