

PROFIT

Prevention of Fraud in Travel

Press release

TRAVEL INDUSTRY WATCHDOG ISSUES GUIDANCE ON HOW TO AVOID PROBLEMS WHEN BUYING AIRLINE TICKETS

The travel industry's fraud watchdog **Prevention of Fraud in Travel** ['PROFIT'] has teamed up with the **Metropolitan Police Service** and a number of airlines to issue guidance on how to avoid problems when buying airline tickets.

Barry Gooch Chairman of PROFIT said: "Working in conjunction with partners within the industry our aim is to explain how travellers can book airline tickets with confidence. The mainstream airlines operate very effective and safe ticketing systems and where a customer sticks to official sources they can be confident that they will not become a victim of fraud."

The Guidance note, including 12 tips for consumers, is attached.

Barry Gooch continued, "The vast majority of consumers enjoy safe and reliable air travel at competitive prices from the industry the pity is that a few get caught out. We want to reinforce to consumers how they can avoid problems by following a few simple rules."

DCI Nick Downing from the Metropolitan Police Service's Economic and Specialist Crime Directorate said: "The proliferation of online sites selling airline tickets has unfortunately created opportunities for unscrupulous fraudsters.

"The Metropolitan Police Service is working alongside the travel industry to reduce the harm caused by organised criminals operating online and to bring to justice those committing these offences.

"A major part of our work lies in prevention. You do not have to be a victim. By taking the time to follow these straightforward rules, you can ensure that you get a genuine deal."

Further details on the work of PROFIT can be found at www.profit.uk.com

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Notes For Editors

1. PROFIT was launched at New Scotland Yard on the 20th February 2009 and is a coalition of travel industry partners working together to eliminate fraud in the travel industry. Working closely with the Metropolitan Police through its initiative Operation Sterling and the City of London Police, we have seen several successful convictions as well as a number of ongoing investigations.
2. The founder members of PROFIT are: ABTA Ltd, BA Plc, The CAA, Co-operative Travel, Davenport Lyons, Global Travel Group, Hays Travel Ltd, Teletext Ltd, Travel Trust Association.
3. PROFIT is a not for profit organisation that works with the whole travel industry including guest houses, hotels, airlines, travel agents, tour operators, cruise companies, train operators and bus and coach bodies.
4. The Metropolitan Police Service offers advice regarding fraud prevention at www.met.police.uk/fraudalert