

## **Business or pleasure? Business travel a benefit not a chore for Britain's employees**

- 72 per cent enjoy travelling for business -
- 1 in 7 business people spend between five and ten nights away from home every month –

Research released today by Barclaycard Business reveals that business people in the UK are spending an increasing amount of time away from home due to a growing number of business trips and excessive working hours. The survey shows that more than one in seven (15 per cent) employees spend between five and ten nights away from home every month on business and more than a third (37 per cent) report typical working days of between 11 and 16 hours. However, despite these figures, it is encouraging to see that nearly three quarters (72 per cent) of employees enjoy business travel and combine business with pleasure.

The research comes from the 11<sup>th</sup> Barclaycard Business *Travel Survey*. The survey questioned more than 4,000 business travellers across the United Kingdom and builds a comprehensive picture of the country's business traveller, gauging views on business travel and travel behaviour.

The survey found that 15 per cent of people spend between five and ten nights away from home every month on business. Furthermore, 16 per cent of the 2,471 respondents with children admitted to spending the same amount of time away from home. The survey also unveiled that the number of hours spent away from home is unlikely to diminish as business travel is rising with 44 per cent of respondents travelling more than they were last year.

Despite spending so much time away from home, the Barclaycard Business survey reveals that for most, business travel is not stressful and an overwhelming majority enjoy their travel. Of the three quarters, (72 per cent) of business travellers who stated they enjoyed business travel, the survey found that over half (56 per cent) enjoy it as it gives them an opportunity to see the world, 55 per cent love the variety it offers, and 51 per cent like the fact that it allows them to experience new cultures. What's more, over a third (37 per cent) of travellers say they have timed business trips to coincide with meeting a partner and 15 per cent admitted to having organised a business trip in order to see a particular destination.

Only 12 per cent of people said that they suffered from stress while travelling. The most stressful part of a business trip for both men and women was getting to and from departure points.

Denise Leleux, Director of Commercial Cards, Barclaycard Business, said:

“Travelling for business can be an exciting part of any job - it adds variety and offers opportunities to see new places and experience different working cultures. However with

work ever more encroaching on home life, it is important to ensure that travelling does not impact negatively on employees' well-being. Sharing the travelling opportunities between employees and organising bookings, check-ins and accommodation all in advance can help ensure that travel remains a perk not a burden for employees."

The results also show that of those who claimed to be travelling more on business than last year, their increased business travel was largely due to business expansion overseas (29 per cent), expansion in the UK (19 per cent) and in order to generate new business (16 per cent). In addition, 72 per cent of respondees felt that they would not be able to achieve the same results for their business without travelling.

Denise Leleux continued:

"With more and more companies seeking to become more global and employees preferring to do business face to face, it is not surprising that the demand for employees to travel with work is on the increase. Although this is positive news for the industry, increased travel will undoubtedly have an impact on the environment and it is crucial that employers, business travellers and the industry as a whole work together to ensure this impact is managed and where possible minimised."