



## **HILLGATE TRAVEL AWARDED PCI DSS COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE** **Clients benefit from enhanced protection against data theft**

**16 June 2009:** Hillgate Travel, one of the UK's largest travel management companies, has been awarded a PCI DSS Certificate of Compliance, ensuring its clients benefit from the highest standards of protection against data theft.

The PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) certificate represents a set of stringent data protection standards now required by the major international credit card brands. Hillgate Travel ([www.hillgatetravel.com](http://www.hillgatetravel.com)) has been working to achieve compliance with these requirements for 12 months, and believes it is among the first British TMCs to do so.

"PCI compliance is a time-consuming and complex process but we were committed to achieving the required standards as quickly as possible, to ensure that our clients can have confidence in their data receiving the best protection possible," said Simon Bull, Hillgate Travel's Client Services Director.

"It involves putting new practices in place, introducing dedicated software and implementing additional security scans of all our systems. The process does not end with certification; we will continue to update our procedures and technology in line with PCI Security Standards Council enhancements."

Established in 1983, Hillgate Travel is the UK's largest independent TMC, catering to the quality demands of the City market. Its client portfolio includes investment banks and financial services organisations. The company's 170 staff are based in High Wycombe, Newport and its London headquarters. In addition to travel management, Hillgate Travel operates Hillgate Solutions, a wholly owned specialist event management company, passport and visa and airport 'meet & greet' service.

Formed by the major credit card brands, the PCI Security Standards Council ([www.pcisecuritystandards.org](http://www.pcisecuritystandards.org)) describes the PCI DSS as a multi-faceted security standard including requirements for security management, policies, procedures, network architecture, software design and other critical protective measures.

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