

PRESS CALL NOTICE

TRANSPORT ON HAND FOR SIGNING OF SKILLS PLEDGE

Date: 21 February 2008

Release time: IMMEDIATE

VENUE: Flybe, New Walker Hangar, Exeter International Airport, Clyst Honiton, Exeter, EX5 2BA.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 27th, from 11.30am.

AS part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) vision to create a skilled workforce capable of matching any in the world, seven national and West Country based transport firms and a college will be making a public commitment to their staff training needs on Wednesday 27 February.

An official signing ceremony of the Skills Pledge, in conjunction with Train to Gain, will take place at the Flybe site at Exeter International Airport beginning at 11.30am. The signing will take place in front of a number of relevant vehicles including an aeroplane, buses and taxis.

The companies making the commitment will be: Stagecoach, First Bus, Exeter College, taxi firms V Cars from Swindon and Salisbury Value Cars from Salisbury and bus companies Webber Bus from Bridgewater and Chelston Leisure Services from Torquay. Representatives from Go Skills, Flybe (who signed the Skills Pledge last June) and the LSC will also be there to witness the signing.

Research shows that nationally everyday 1.3 million people go to work without having had the necessary training and skills to do their job proficiently. The LSC believes the key to business success is a skilled and competent workforce. To achieve this, the LSC's Train to Gain service offers employers impartial advice on training tailored to their business needs.

The Skills Pledge is a public commitment by a company to support all its employees develop their basic skills – including literacy and numeracy – and work towards achieving relevant valuable qualifications to at least NVQ level 2, which is the equivalent of five GCSEs at grade A to C standard.

Train to Gain offers impartial and independent advice - matching a company's training needs with relevant training providers and ensuring training is delivered to meet the needs of individual businesses.

Representatives from all seven companies involved will be available for interview during the press facility.

Ends

21 February 2008

Notes to Editors:

Directions: At Exeter Airport follow the signs for Car Park 4 (Long Stay). Park there and go to the Flybe New Walker Hangar reception situated in the adjacent hangar. Bring your car park ticket and you will be given a voucher to get out.

Media enquiries: Sue Bradbury PR Tel: 01872 863863 or Toby Parker 020 70256440

NOTES TO EDITORS: THE LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers