

Transport Systems Catapult Media Release PR10-14

FAO: NEWS & TRANSPORT EDITORS

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Weather, traffic jams, and drunks top poll of Christmas transport problems

A survey published today (22nd December) by the Transport Systems Catapult reveals the transport issues that ruin our journey home for Christmas.

Severe weather, traffic jams, and drunkenness are amongst the top Christmas travel travesties. The YouGov survey, carried out for the Transport Systems Catapult – the UK’s technology and innovation centre for Intelligent Mobility – asked over 2,000 adults in Great Britain about their journey home for Christmas.

32% of people said severe weather such as snow, fog, and storms has made their journey home at Christmas difficult. One in four (26%) said traffic jams had made their journey home difficult, and 20% said the cost of travel – for tickets or petrol. Drunkenness and bad behaviour on public transport was high in the poll with 8% of people saying this had made their journey difficult in the past.

Top Ten Travel Travesties at Christmas

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| 1. Severe weather (snow, fog, storms) | 32% |
| 2. Traffic jams | 26% |
| 3. Cost of travel | 20% |
| 4. Overcrowding on public transport | 16% |
| 5. Engineering works/roadworks | 16% |
| 6. Lack of transport available | 15% |
| 7. Behaviour of other drivers | 11% |
| 8. Queues | 10% |
| 9. Drunkenness/bad behaviour of passengers | 8% |
| 10. Luggage problems e.g. not enough space | 6% |

Steve Yianni, chief executive of the Transport Systems Catapult said:

“This survey shows that we need to harness emerging technologies to make transport better, especially during busy times like Christmas. Technology such as driverless vehicles, intelligent phone apps, and social media, will transform how we travel in the future – making journeys faster, easier, and more connected.”

The Transport Systems Catapult, established by the Government in 2013, is developing a range of innovation and technology projects that will help address the issues revealed in the survey.

Severe weather: The Catapult’s resilience programme is investigating the impact that severe weather has on the transport network and how we can use technology to cope better in future.

Traffic jams: Various projects are looking at how we can improve access to data and the visualisation of real-time information to alleviate the pressure on the UK's road network and reduce delays caused by traffic jams.

Customer experience: One of the Catapult's major business units focuses on improving the customer experience and making end-to-end journeys better. For example, using social media 'Sentiment Mapping' tools to improve the passenger experience on the rail network.

Steve Yianni also said:

"Intelligent Mobility is the future of transport – using emerging technology to improve the movement of people and goods around the world. With a global market estimated to be worth £900bn per year by 2025, it's a sector that is critical to creating jobs and securing long-term economic growth in the UK."

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Notes to editors:

YouGov Survey

The survey was conducted by YouGov Plc for the Transport Systems Catapult and took a GB Base 2,025 Adults aged 18+. For full results please contact us. Fieldwork was undertaken between 15th - 16th December 2014. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). The question asked was:

"Thinking about travelling home for Christmas...What, if anything, has ever made your journey home at Christmas difficult?"

www.yougov.co.uk

Transport Systems Catapult

The Transport Systems Catapult is the UK's technology and innovation centre for Intelligent Mobility, harnessing emerging technologies to improve the movement of people and goods around the world. We are here to support business growth, increase the UK's share of the

global Intelligent Mobility market, and attract investment – creating jobs and generating long-term economic growth.

We will help sell UK capability on the global stage, while also promoting the UK as a superb test bed for the transportation industry. With a clear emphasis on collaboration, we are bringing together diverse organisations across different modes of transport, breaking down barriers and providing a unique platform for meeting the world's most pressing transport challenges.

The Transport Systems Catapult is one of an elite network of not-for-profit technology and innovation centres established and overseen by the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK. All Catapults obtain their funds from a combination of core Innovate UK support and competitively won business and public sector funding. In addition, the Transport Systems Catapult is receiving substantial funding from the UK's Department for Transport.

For more information, please visit www.ts.catapult.org.uk

Innovate UK

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