

# Britain's first in-airport hotel opens at Gatwick



**BRIGHT IDEA:** Simon Woodroffe, founder of the Yo! Sushi chain, relaxes in his latest concept, the Yotel, where cabins provide a "flexible and convenient experience"

# In a hurry? Relax in a Yotel room for a while

THE FIRST hotel to be built inside a British airport terminal opened this week.

Yotel – the latest offering from Yo! Sushi founder and former Dragon's Den panellist Simon Woodroffe – is inside the South Terminal at Gatwick.

The idea is to give passengers in transit, or those with early check-in times, a private place to relax.

Rooms can be booked for just four hours or overnight.

The compact rooms come with all the mod cons, including wi-fi internet access, flat-screen televisions, digital radio and nifty fold-out work desks.

Prices start at £25 for a standard room for four hours.

by **JAMES LANCASTER**

An overnight stay in a premium room with a bigger bed will set you back £82.

Woodroffe said he wanted to create cabins that provided a "flexible and convenient" first class hotel experience at an affordable price.

He said: "In the 21st century, luxury will be available to everyone around the globe at the right cost and this is a taste of that future."

Designers took their inspiration from business class airline cabins and luxury yachts.

Gerard Greene, Yotel chief executive,

said: "Travelling can be a painful experience so we are looking to make it as pleasurable as possible for Yotel customers."

Talal Jassim Al-Bahar, managing director of Yotel parent company IFA HR, said the opening of Yotel Gatwick was the start of an aggressive expansion plan for the brand.

He said: "We hope to see a Yotel in the majority of international cities and airports."

Yotels are expected to open in Dubai, the Netherlands, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, New York, Russia, India and South Africa in the next few years.

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**BUMPY RIDE:** Shock survey

## Pregnant workers are bullied

PREGNANT women are being bullied at work, often facing discrimination, refused rest breaks and passed over for promotion, according to a "shocking" report.

A survey of 600 human resources employees by baby charity Tommy's and People Management magazine found that one in seven believed line managers in their organisation did not respect the rights of pregnant employees.

One in five had been approached by a pregnant employee who complained of being discriminated against, while a similar number had witnessed a pregnant worker being passed over for promotion.

Some of those questioned said they had witnessed a pregnant worker being put under pressure to "overperform" to make up for time lost for attending check-ups.

About one in seven said women had been made to feel they had let the company down by getting pregnant.

Jane Brewin, chief executive of Tommy's said: "The alarming fact about these results is that often what an organisation claims it is doing in terms of staff welfare is quite clearly not the case in practice."

"The survey was totally anonymous so the HR professionals in question have uncovered what's really going on in many companies today."

## Guide tackles employment issues

A GLOSSY guide to encourage companies to offer job opportunities or work experience for disadvantaged people was published this week.

The 55-page document was compiled by Engage, an EU-sponsored organisation trying to close the poverty and skills gap in Brighton and Hove.

It includes information on health and safety, employment law, marketing and how to work with relevant organisations like Working Links and Jobcentre Plus.

Engage is a networking forum for groups in Brighton and Hove that offers employment schemes

for marginalised people like lone parents, the disabled, drug addicts and the homeless. It has 48 members.

Director Claire Mitchell, pictured, said there were 9,600 people in Brighton and Hove trying to get back into work, yet the city suffered from high unemployment.

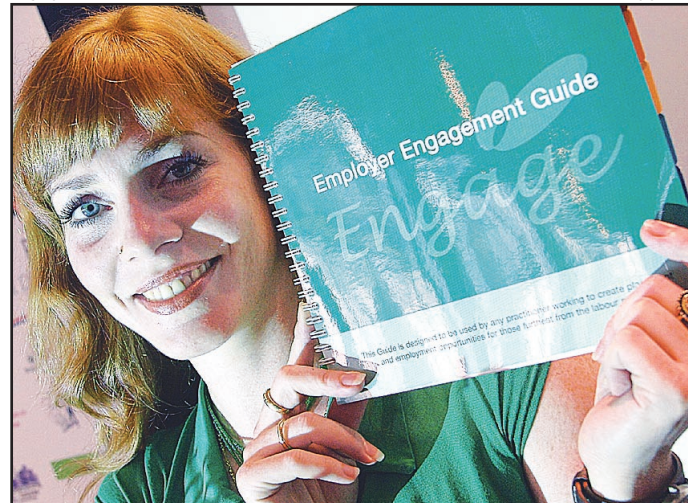
Tackling social exclusion was one way to address this paradox.

She said: "Employer engagement is a national priority."

"It is often one of the only ways of getting those furthest from the labour market either into or back into employment."

PICTURE: TERRY APPLIN

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**ENGAGING:** Claire Mitchell with the Employer Engagement Guide

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