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PRESS RELEASE FROM HOLIDAYTRAVELWATCH™

HOLIDAYMAKERS REPORT HOLIDAY COMPLAINTS AT THE RUI BACHATA IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Visitors to the website of HolidayTravelWatch will be aware that the Organisation has closely monitored and reported health problems emanating from some hotels in the Dominican Republic.

HolidayTravelWatch has been made aware that a number of returning British Holidaymakers have suffered illness, following the recent stay at the Rui Bachata Hotel in the Dominican Republic. Holidaymakers report that they suffered with serious gastric illness and serious contractual complaints.

Holiday complaints found that some holidaymakers found used condoms placed on door handles, persons urinating into the swimming pool, and building work, not previously advised, taking place in one of the hotel's swimming pools.

Many of the holidaymakers returning to the UK have reported that they continue to suffer with gastric problems. One holidaymaker, who was in a wedding party of 20 people, has told HolidayTravelWatch that he has been diagnosed as suffering with Shigella. If this unconfirmed report is correct, this is a serious gastric condition, with a faecal oral spread, usually obtained from food or water. Further details can be found on this condition on the website of HolidayTravelWatch under the 'Action' section.

Frank Brehany the MD of HolidayTravelWatch states, "Once again I find myself commenting on the same issues over and over again, having previously reported that there has been an issue with some of the hotels used in the Dominican Republic since 2004".

He adds, "I think the British holidaymaker has been patient for far too long. Time and time again, British travellers are subjected to poor hygiene standards, or intolerable conditions, at some of the Dominican Republic hotels. After all the problems in the late 1990's, I had hoped lessons had been

learned by the Travel Industry. Clearly they have not! Mores the pity, because it is the holidaymaker and ultimately the economy of the Dominican Republic that suffers. It is time that both groups were treated better than this".

He concludes, "I urge all those who have been affected by any of the issues at this hotel, to seek medical assistance from their GP or local Environmental Health Officer. Secondly, I urge them to contact our helpline – there is only one way to resolve their holiday complaints, and it is not to enter into a dialogue with the tour operators solicitors! In my view, it is important that everyone receives legal representation in this matter. The group action still has a role to play, that role is to provide a wake up call tour operators, as to their obvious and continuing responsibilities toward the average holidaymaker, and the fragile economies of developing countries".

HolidayTravelWatch has assisted holidaymakers who stayed at this hotel with advices, and some have gone on to join a group action or receive initial free legal advices. HolidayTravelWatch advises those affected by any of these issues, whether they were ill or not, to contact their helpline, and on no account to accept any offer of compensation without receiving independent advices.

HolidayTravelWatch is a National Consumer Organisation which provides information, advice and assistance to the holidaymaker or independent traveller, who experiences problems with their travel arrangements. In eleven years 120,000 people have benefited from the help provided by HolidayTravelWatch, with some 40% being empowered to resolve their own claims by the information the organisation provides on their consumer rights.

HolidayTravelWatch has campaigned in the past for improvements in travel safety and is proud to have been associated with some of the leading broadcast and print media projects aimed at informing the consumer. HolidayTravelWatch continues with that campaigning spirit and continues to work closely with the media and government departments alike.

Full details of the work of HolidayTravelWatch can be found on www.holidaytravelwatch.com

For further information on this press release and any other associated matters please contact Frank Brehany on 01217478100

www.holidaytravelwatch.com