

March 5, 2010

## Ryanair Calls on

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Ryanair, Ireland's favourite airline, has today (5 Mar) sent an open letter to Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey, calling on him to appoint an Appeal Panel under the Airport Regulation legislation, to review Ryanair's appeal against the Regulator's (Dec 4) decision to approve price increases at Dublin Airport of up to 40% in 2010, despite the fact that inflation is zero and traffic at Dublin Airport has collapsed by over 3m passengers in 2009 and is heading for another 3m collapse in 2010.

Ryanair believes that any sensible Minister for Transport would have responded to this traffic collapse by ordering the DAA's high airport fees to be reduced. This is what's happening at airports all over Europe. Instead "Dolittle Dempsey" ordered the (supposedly) independent Aviation Regulator to rubber-stamp the DAA's requested 40% increase in airport fees in 2010. Already in the first two months of 2010 traffic at Dublin Airport has fallen by 15% and Dublin is heading for a further fall of 3m passengers on top of the 3m fewer passenger it handled in 2009.

Ryanair first wrote to "Dozy Dempsey" back in December calling on him to urgently form an Appeal Panel to review the Regulator's decision. Instead of acting quickly, to protect air passengers and consumers "Dolittle Dempsey" has delayed for a full three months, despite the fact that he has received no appeals other than Ryanair's appeal last December. While "Donothing Dempsey" was delaying the appeal process, the DAA have advised airlines at Dublin Airport that they intend to increase fees by 40% in 2010, with a 25% increase due at the end of March, and a further 15% increase due when they open the white elephant T2 in October 2010. Ryanair believes that Minister Dempsey has deliberately delayed the appointment of the Appeal Panel so that the DAA monopoly (which his Department owns and protects) can impose these price increases before the Appeal Panel has had a chance to rule on them.

### **Speaking today, Ryanair's Michael O'Leary said:**

*"We condemn this useless Transport Minister, Noel Dempsey, firstly for ordering the (supposedly) independent Regulator to approve a 40% increase in Dublin Airport fees, when inflation is zero and traffic is collapsing. Instead of protecting consumers, and reducing the cost of flights at the Irish airports, Minister Dempsey prefers to jack up these already high costs, even if it means another 3m passengers will be lost to Irish tourism this year.*

## Irish Press Releases

*"It is outrageous that he not only orders these 40% price increases, but then he deliberately delays the appointment of an Appeal Panel for over 3 months, so that the DAA monopoly can impose these cost increases at the end of March, well before the Appeal Panel has had an opportunity to review and publish its findings.*

*"Minister Dempsey's latest failure comes as no surprise from a Minister who was "missing in Malta" during the recent snow problems, and who originally wasted over EUR50m of tax payers money on ordering e-voting machines which don't work. Having presided over a record collapse in air traffic at the Irish airports, Minister Dempsey's response - which was to order price increases of 40% and then delay an Appeal Panel review for 3 months until after the DAA monopoly has imposed these prices increases - shows that he is unfit to represent consumers as Minister for Transport.*

*I note that Minister Dempsey is heading for Atlanta in the US for the St Patrick's Day celebrations. Perhaps he would do all Irish passengers a favour and stay there, and thereby allow someone competent to defend the interests of consumers and passengers as Minister for Transport, whereas all he's done is protect and defend the high costs and waste of the DAA airport monopoly".*

# Irish Press Releases

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5<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

Mr Noel Dempsey TD  
Minister for Transport  
Transport House  
44 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

## OPEN LETTER

Dear Noel,

I refer to our previous letters concerning the Aviation Regulator's 4 Dec 2009 decision (CP4/2009) to approve – at your direction – up to 40% increases in the DAA's already high airport charges during 2010, despite the fact that inflation is zero and traffic at Dublin Airport collapsed by over 3m passengers in 2009 and is heading for another 3m collapse in 2010.

Your decision to order the supposedly independent Aviation Regulator to approve the DAA's requested 40% fee increases in 2010, while you preside over record collapses in air traffic and tourism at the Irish airports, and your inexplicable three month delay in appointing the Appeal Panel proves yet again that the Department of Transport continues to act as the downtown office of the DAA, and that you as Minister have totally failed to protect the interests of consumers and users against the vested interests of the Government owned airport monopoly. The fact that traffic at Dublin Airport continues to collapse, while the main Irish airlines continue to grow rapidly, exposes your total and abject failure as Minister for Transport.

We regret your repeated refusal to appoint an early Appeal Panel to consider Ryanair's appeal against these unwarranted and unjustified (Department sanctioned) 40% cost increases. Since the three month deadline for receipt of requests for appeals expired yesterday (4<sup>th</sup> March), you cannot delay any further the appointment of an Appeal Panel. Can you please urgently confirm when this Appeal Panel will be appointed and, in the interest of efficiency and speed, that you will reappoint the members of the 2008 Panel, since these people are familiar with the issues at Dublin Airport and can expedite the hearing of the appeal, hopefully before the DAA begins to impose these 40% price increases (as they have notified users they intend to) from 28<sup>th</sup> March next.

Yours sincerely



Michael O'Leary  
Chief Executive