

Statement from the Commissioner for Aviation Regulation regarding airport charges

In the light of reports carried by the media today (26th September 2003), the Commissioner of Aviation Regulation, Mr William Prasifka wishes to make the following points very clear:

1. There has been no Statutory Review of the Determination on Airport Charges (published as CP7 in August 2001), contrary to the impression created in the media reports. There has been a consultation phase with interested parties as to what might constitute substantial grounds for, and thereby the scope, of a Review. Notices in relation to this phase appeared on the Commission's website on 16.4.03 and 4.6.03. However, a Review per se, has not commenced, nor has a final decision in relation to a review been taken or published.
2. It would be very unwise and preemptory therefore for any link or comparison to be made between the likely outcome of any future review of the Determination and the outcome of the annual compliance exercise which is the subject matter of today's media reports.
3. The Commissioner plans to make an announcement shortly as to whether a Review is to take place.
4. The only recent event which has taken place in relation to airport charges is the annual compliance exercise mentioned above. The Commission recently published on its website (24.9.03) its annual compliance paper, **CP2/2003**, which calculates on an annual basis, minor adjustments to the price cap on airport charges. This adjustment reflects such factors as annual inflation, the actual amount of airport charges collected in the previous year by Aer Rianta and the X-factor (a measure of the annual efficiency improvements expected of Aer Rianta). This Commission Paper can be viewed at www.aviationreg.ie and a [detailed explanatory note](#) of the economics behind it accompanies this statement.

26 September 2003