

Notice on Unlicensed activity in the Travel Trade sector

The Commission for Aviation Regulation, in response to information it has received regarding recent flights from Shannon Airport carrying fans abroad to away games of the Munster Rugby team, wishes to confirm that neither Ms. Pamela Hickey, nor the "Munster Sporting Club" are licensed to act as Travel Agents or Tour Operators for the purposes of arranging overseas travel as defined by the relevant travel trade legislation. The Commission therefore wishes to advise members of the public that they cannot avail of the protection of that legislation should they chose to deal with an unlicensed operator.

In particular, the Commission wishes to point out that pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of the Transport (Tour Operators and Travel Agents) Act, 1982, it is an offence for a person to carry on business or hold himself out as carrying on business, as a Tour Operator or a Travel Agent without a valid licence. A person found guilty of such an offence is liable, on conviction on indictment, to either a fine of up to €127,000.00, a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

It is the policy of the Commission to investigate complaints of unlicensed activity with a view to initiating a prosecution.