

SUBMISSION

Mr. Bill Prasifka,
Commissioner,
Commission for Aviation Regulation,
36, Upper Mount Street,
Dublin 2.

20th July, 2001.

Dear Mr. Prasifka,

Cork City and the entire south-west region is highly dependent on services provided at Cork Airport. In recent years massive investment has been made at Dublin and Shannon airports with funding from the Exchequer. Cork Airport has been starved of funds, although traffic has increased at a spectacular rate.

Aer Rianta has now recognised the need for a massive investment programme. The airport has succeeded in attracting a number of airlines to operate new services to cities in mainland Europe and provincial Britain. Many of these services are in the early stages of development and are considered marginal in terms of profitability.

Any attempt to increase landing charges by the amount suggested in your draft proposals would, in my view, put the viability of these services in serious doubt. It would lead to a substantial reduction in revenue at the airport.

In my view, it is grossly unfair to expect Cork to fund its own investment programme, so soon after the other State airports have received major investment from the State.

I am also concerned about the imbalance in the marketing support budget available to Cork airport in relation to Shannon. Traffic levels at both airports are broadly similar and in my view the level of marketing support available should be equal to both airports.

Yours sincerely,

CLLR. TOM O'DRISCOLL,
LORD MAYOR OF CORK.

c.c. Minister Mary O'Rourke T.D., Minister for Public Enterprise
Mr. Joe O'Connor, Aer Rianta