



22 May 2008

Commission Notice CN 4/2008

REVIEW OF TRAVEL TRADE LEGISLATION

The Commission for Aviation Regulation (“the Commission”) has been asked by the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey, T.D. to carry out a comprehensive review of the travel trade licensing and bonding legislation in order to assess the operation of the current regulatory arrangements and to recommend any reforms that may be warranted.

The broad terms of reference of the review are:

- To review the effectiveness of the travel trade licensing provisions as the optimum means to provide financial protection to the traveling public
- To consider whether the regulatory requirements are being by-passed by on-line vendors of travel services and if there is any consequential loss of consumer protection or distortion of competition
- To consider the overall internal coherence of the regulatory framework with regard to relative treatment of tour operators and travel agents
- To consider, in the light of the analysis, the need for reform by way of a new approach, amendments to the existing arrangements to improve efficiency and effectiveness or indeed through some deregulation

The Commission is now considering the terms of reference and preparing to carry out a review of the travel trade licensing and bonding legislation. It invites proposals from the public on the areas of the travel trade regime that the Commission should focus in its review.

Responses to this notice will help shape the study that the Commission anticipates undertaking. The Commission plans to evaluate the existing legislation to determine whether or not the current travel trade regulatory regime provides consumers with adequate protection without placing an unduly heavy burden on business and staff as travel markets and technologies continue to develop at a rapid pace.

A consultation paper with possible policy proposals will be published later this year. Parties will be invited to respond on the merits of the various suggested reforms at that stage. Consequently, at this stage the Commission is only seeking views on the scope for a review of the licensing regime.

Parties wishing to suggest issues relevant for the scope of the review should submit responses to the Commission, by Friday, 13th June 2008. Submissions may be addressed to:

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The Commission will place all responses received on its website and will analyse thoroughly all responses.