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Commission applies for Injunction suspending the Travel Agent services of Bon Voyage Travel Ltd

16 July 2001.

This morning, the Commission for Aviation Regulation applied to the High Court for an injunction against Bon Voyage Travel Ltd of St Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire, to prevent it trading as a travel agent, without the necessary licence. This morning the High Court decided to adjourn its hearing of the matter for a week. That adjournment was opposed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation.

The injunction was sought by the Commission for Aviation Regulation, due to the failure of Bon Voyage Travel Ltd to furnish a bond as it is obliged to under travel trade legislation. The purpose of a bond is to protect consumers in the event that a travel agent fails.

Until such time as Bon Voyage obtains a bond, it cannot be licenced, and as such, the law prohibits it from trading or holding itself out as a travel agent.

Notes to Editors

The Commission assumed the role of licensee of travel agents and tour operators from the Minister of Public Enterprise on its establishment on the 27th February 2001. While there are precise legal differences between travel agents and tour operators, in general terms, a tour operator is a person who acts as the principal in relation to overseas travel which it arranges for the purpose of selling or offering for sale to the general public. By contrast, a travel agent is a person who sells or purchases or offers to purchase overseas travel on behalf of the public on a commission basis.

Under the Transport (Tour Operators and Travel Agents) Act 1982, it is a condition for a travel agent or tour operator licence that the applicant possesses a sufficient bond to ensure it can meet its obligations to its customers, in case it is unable to meet its contractual or financial obligations.

A travel agent or tour operator may choose to organise a bond through their bank, an insurance company, through a cash lodgement or through the collective bonding scheme, which is organised by the Irish Travel Agents Association (ITAA).

For Further Information

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