



## **COMMISSION DECISION ON DUBLIN AIRPORT CHECK-IN DESK RENTAL FEES.**

The Commission for Aviation Regulation today (10 March 2008) published its decision approving an increase in the check-in desk rental fees at Dublin Airport to €25,000 per annum, together with an increase in the hourly desk rental charge to €30.

In applying for the increase, the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) submitted a detailed breakdown of the actual cost per desk, which it estimated at €66,600. After careful analysis the Commission disallowed certain elements of the cost base and reassessed the cost per desk at €54,585.

In reaching its decision, the Commission had regard to submissions made to the DAA by groundhandlers and separate submissions received by the Commission. Despite the reduction in the assessed costs per desk, the Commission concluded that the approved annual fee of €25,000 per desk remains significantly below cost.

The rationale and methodology used by the Commission for assessing the check-in desk rental application, including its interpretation of the relevant legal criteria, were upheld by the High Court in October 2006 after an unsuccessful judicial review by Ryanair.

In a separate paper, CP2/2008, the Commission addresses concerns raised by ground handlers that the fee increases should be considered with reference to the cap on airport charges. Check-in desk fees are not included in the charges covered by this cap. The Commission suggests proposals that might address concerns that the DAA will increase access-to-installation fees as a means of circumventing the airport charges price cap.

The Commission also published today, in Commission Notice CN2/2008, its preliminary view on whether the existing legislation requires it to approve floor space rental charges associated with the provision of Self Service Kiosks (SSK) that the DAA may wish to levy. The Commission suggests that, as the SSK unit and technology platform in question is being provided by the airline/groundhandler and is not the property of the managing body of the airport, the charge foreseen in relation to rental of floor space is not an access to installation fee requiring prior approval. The Commission offered a four week period within which to receive industry views on this approach.

All Commission Papers and Notices can be accessed on [www.aviationreg.ie](http://www.aviationreg.ie).

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**Notes to Editors**

Under Section 14(3) of Statutory Instrument 505 of 1998 the Dublin Airport Authority must seek approval in advance from the Commission where it seeks to introduce or increase a fee in respect of an 'airport installation'. The Commission must approve any changes to the fees charged by the airport authorities at Cork, Dublin and Shannon airports for access to installations needed to provide ground handling services.