

20 January 2003

Press Release

The Commission for Aviation Regulation (CAR) has today, 20th January, announced that Elite Travel Limited, 12A Terenure Road West, Terenure, Dublin 6W, has advised it that it has ceased trading as a Tour Operator and as a Travel Agent.

Elite Travel Ltd. held both a Travel Agent's licence and a Tour Operator's licence from the Commission for Aviation Regulation. Bonds held in connection with those licences are now being called down and administered by the Commission for Aviation Regulation.

The Commission understands that Elite Travel Limited has already advised a number of customers and suppliers in writing that it had put arrangements in place with another travel agency with a view to ensuring that the travel arrangements of those customers can be completed.

Other customers, and anyone with concerns about travel arrangements made through Elite Travel Limited, should contact the Commission for Aviation Regulation on the following numbers between 10am and 1pm and 2.30 pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Telephone: (01) 6346844, (01) 6346841 or (01) 6346840.

All refunds will be made in accordance with the Transport (Tour Operators and Travel Agents) Act 1982.

Claims for refunds must be made with 60 days.

Issued on behalf of the Commission for Aviation Regulation by Whelan Communications.

Contact Suzanne Mc Cormack, Tel 01 676 8877, Mobile 086 8573927

Email: <u>suzanne@zelos.ie</u>

Notes to Editor

The Commission for Aviation Regulation has responsibility for issuing licences which are supported by bonds amounting to 10% of a tour operator's turnover and 4% in the case of a travel agent (operators and agents require different licences). Tour operators and travel agents are obliged to enter into a bond before the Commission grants a licence. In the event of the failure of a tour operator or travel agent to meet its obligations to customers in relation to travel abroad, the Commission is responsible for administering the bond. This consists of assessing the eligibility of individual claims from customers of the firm, making the appropriate refunds, and where necessary, making arrangements for the repatriation of customers who are abroad.

The maximum penalty for trading without a licence is €126,973 and/or up to five years imprisonment