

**COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC OF  
A MINORITY INTEREST IN AER LINGUS GROUP PLC**

**Notice of extension of inquiry period published pursuant to  
section 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002**

On 15 June 2012, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) made a reference to the Competition Commission (CC) under section 22 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) concerning the completed acquisition by Ryanair Holdings plc (RA) of a minority interest in Aer Lingus Group plc.

The group of members of the CC appointed to consider this reference (the Group) has decided pursuant to section 39(4) of the Act that the reference period should be extended until RA provides the information and documents required by the notice under section 109 of the Act dated 10 July 2012 (the Notice), or the CC publishes its decision to cancel the extension.

In taking the decision, the Group noted that RA was challenging the CC's jurisdiction to pursue its investigation and also challenging the issue of the Notice in front of the Competition Appeal Tribunal.<sup>1</sup> The Group has concluded that, in these circumstances, an extension to the reference period is necessary.

*(signed)* SIMON POLITO  
Group Chairman  
18 July 2012

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<sup>1</sup> [www.catribunal.org.uk/237-7673/1196-4-8-12-Ryanair-Holdings-plc.html](http://www.catribunal.org.uk/237-7673/1196-4-8-12-Ryanair-Holdings-plc.html).