

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

Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3 of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure

1. On 15 June 2012, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 22 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) and its power under section 35(6) of the Act, referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the completed acquisition by Ryanair Holdings plc (Ryanair) of a minority interest in Aer Lingus Group plc (Aer Lingus).

Provisional findings

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act:
 - (a) a relevant merger situation has been created; and
 - (b) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition (SLC) within the market in the UK for goods or services, including the supply of air passenger services on a number of routes between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
3. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which are summarized in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

The next steps

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is now invited to provide the Group with their reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
5. These reasons should be received by the Inquiry Manager, on behalf of the Group, no later than 20 June.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
7. The Group is also publishing a Notice of the possible actions which it considers might be taken by the CC to remedy the SLC provisionally identified.

Signed SIMON POLITO
Group Chairman
30 May 2013

Notes:

- (i) A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the [CC website](#) on 30 May. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its website shortly thereafter. The published version of the provisional findings report

will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.

(ii) Comments should be made by email or in writing to:

Ryanair.Aerlingus@cc.gsi.gov.uk

or

Inquiry Manager
Ryanair/Aer Lingus merger inquiry
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD