

Ab/MOL/2060

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

Ms Mary Coughlan TD  
Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment  
22 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Dear Mary,

Your fax letter of this afternoon refers.

As you will be aware from my letter of earlier today, I have offered to meet with you personally tomorrow to brief you on how I believe – even at this late stage – up to 300 maintenance jobs could be secured from Ryanair in the Hangar 6 facility at Dublin Airport.

This clearly isn't going to happen if it is delegated to the IDA or the DAA, since this failed miserably last September when Ryanair was offering 500 jobs in this facility. All that is necessary is for you, as Minister for Enterprise, to direct the Government owned DAA monopoly to sell Hangar 6 to Ryanair for the same arms-length price they paid to SRT for it last year. Ryanair will not negotiate directly with the DAA who are currently engaged in increasing our passenger charges by 40% (when inflation is negative) and more recently are trying to force our baggage handling staff to move accommodation as a subterfuge to increasing our rents by over 100%. It is extraordinary that the DAA monopoly is seeking to double rents for staff accommodation at a time when rents all over Dublin are declining by some 50%.

We are at an advanced stage of negotiations with two other European airports/Governments to invest substantial funds in developing hangar facilities and creating up to 300 maintenance jobs at one of two other European locations. These jobs could be won by you for Dublin Airport if you would simply:

- a) Direct the DAA to sell Hangar 6 to us or lease it to us through the IDA.
- b) Relocate Aer Lingus' small line maintenance operation from Hangar 6 to one of the two empty hangars, both of which are capable of accommodating this line maintenance operation.
- c) This will result in Aer Lingus' 100 line maintenance jobs being preserved, but also creating the space in Hangar 6 for Ryanair to transfer a lot of our heavy maintenance business and we could begin the process of creating up to 300 jobs for qualified aircraft engineers, many of whom are still drawing the dole as a result of your failure to take up our offer of 500 jobs in this facility last September.

Instead of wasting time fobbing us off on the IDA or the DAA, why don't you intervene in this personally, meet with me tomorrow and give us a commitment that the Government will do what is necessary to win these jobs and this investment for Ireland.

We tried to contact your Department today to see if our offer of a meeting tomorrow would be acceptable, but there is nobody in the office as the receptionist confirmed that they were "on strike". Perhaps you would have somebody confirm with my office whether you would like to meet or not tomorrow.

Yours sincerely



Michael O'Leary  
*Chief Executive*