

Our ref: MOL/TM/21051

19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

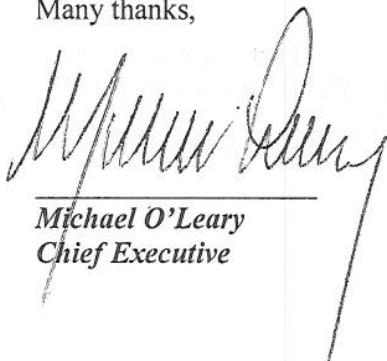
Ms Mary Coughlan TD  
Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment  
22 Kildare St  
Dublin 2

Dear Mary

I understand from today's newspapers that you wrote to Ryanair yesterday. In your haste to circulate this letter to the media perhaps your office "forgot" to post or fax the letter to Ryanair since we still have not received it.

I'd appreciate a copy of this letter by fax this morning, that is of course unless your department is on strike again and not answering phones or sending faxes!

Many thanks,



**Michael O'Leary**  
**Chief Executive**

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19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**OPEN LETTER**

Mr Brian Cowen TD  
An Taoiseach  
Merrion St  
Dublin 2

**Re: Ryanair's offer to create up to 300 jobs in Hangar 6**

Dear Brian

As Ireland's largest airline, and one of the biggest employers in the Republic, we were astonished at the false claims you made in the Dáil on Tuesday afternoon. I would ask you to please correct these false claims which now lie on the record of the Dáil and are damaging and defamatory towards Ryanair.

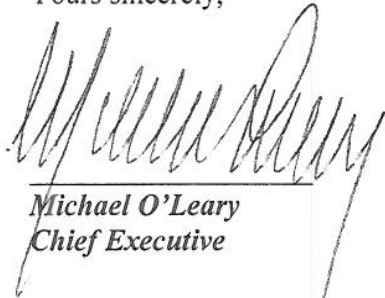
1. You claimed that Aer Lingus has a 20 year lease over the Hangar 6 facility and that this lease cannot be broken without breaking the law. This is untrue since the Tánaiste, at our meeting later on Tuesday evening, confirmed that there is a clause in this lease (similar to Ryanair's DAA leases) which allows the DAA to require Aer Lingus to vacate this facility without breaking either the lease or the law. Since Aer Lingus has not created one new job in Hangar 6 and has no heavy maintenance work to put in the facility, why won't you or your government ask or direct the DAA to exercise this clause in order to save 300 jobs?
2. You claimed that there was a 24 month notice period in the Aer Lingus Hangar 6 lease. This was subsequently contradicted by the Tánaiste at our meeting who confirmed that there was a 12 month notice period in the lease. Why doesn't the government publish a copy of the actual lease (with the commercial detail redacted) in order to clarify whether either you or the Tánaiste has not told the truth?
3. You claimed that Ryanair did not make an offer for the Hangar 6 facility. This is manifestly untrue as we have already published the offer letters to the Tánaiste and the IDA from 2009 (when the Hangar 6 facility was vacant and not the subject of any lease) offering to create up to 500 engineering jobs in the facility. As you are aware the first 200 of these jobs were lost - by virtue of your government's inaction - to Scotland and Glasgow Prestwick last week. A further 200 plus engineering jobs will be lost by your government to another EU country/airport in the coming weeks.
4. You claimed in the Dail that there was a "competition" for the Hangar 6 facility which Aer Lingus "won". Since we were not aware of any such "competition" can you please publish the details of the competition, when it was held, what its terms were and who selected the winner.

Could you also explain how Aer Lingus "won" this "competition" for Hangar 6 with no heavy maintenance work and creating no new jobs, over Ryanair, which has a large volume of heavy maintenance work on a fleet of over 230 aircraft and was offering to create up to 500 engineering jobs here in Ireland in the Hangar 6 facility?

We now find ourselves in the bizarre situation of offering to create up to 300 Irish jobs in the Hangar 6 facility but these jobs will shortly be lost to another European country because the DAA (a government owned monopoly) has leased the – still empty - Hangar 6 facility to Aer Lingus (despite the fact that all of Aer Lingus' heavy maintenance has been contracted to France for a 10 year period, they have no work in the hangar and have created no new jobs) and your government is now spinning lies and falsehoods to defend its indefensible refusal to work with Ryanair to win back these 300 jobs for Ireland.

We now formally request that you correct the record of the Dáil at the earliest possible date by withdrawing these false claims so that the good name and reputation of one of Ireland's most successful multinational companies - Ryanair - is not besmirched by these four false claims made by you in the Dáil on Tuesday last.

Yours sincerely,



*Michael O'Leary*  
*Chief Executive*



## **RYANAIR REGRETS THAT THE TAOISEACH AND TANAISTE HAVE MISLED THE DAIL OVER RYANAIR'S SRT HANGAR 6 PROPOSAL**

Ryanair, Ireland's largest airline, this afternoon (17 Feb) rejected the false claims made by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen in the Dail this morning which mirrored equally misleading claims made by Tanaiste Mary Coughlan yesterday. In the Dail this morning, An Taoiseach made four false claims about Ryanair's offer to create up to 300 jobs, if the airline was sold or leased the Hangar 6 heavy maintenance facility.

### **Lie No. 1**

The Taoiseach claimed that Aer Lingus has a 20 year lease over the Hangar 6 facility and that this lease cannot be broken. This is untrue, since the Tanaiste at last night's meeting with Ryanair confirmed that Aer Lingus' 20 year lease has the same 12 month's notice clause in it (as all DAA leases do), allowing the DAA to request Aer Lingus to vacate Hangar 6. The exercise of this Clause by the Govt owned DAA would not be a breach of the lease, and nor would it be breaking the law, as the Taoiseach wrongly claimed.

### **Lie No. 2**

The Taoiseach claimed that there was a 24 months notice period in the Aer Lingus Hangar 6 lease. This is also untrue, since the Tanaiste at last evening's meeting with Ryanair confirmed that the notice clause in the Aer Lingus Hangar 6 lease was 12 months. The fact that Aer Lingus have put very little into Hangar 6 (other than 95 line engineers) means that this facility could be vacated by Aer Lingus within 12 weeks which would allow Ryanair to start recruiting some former SRT engineers for heavy maintenance on Ryanair's fleet from September 2010 onwards.

### **Lie No. 3**

The Taoiseach claimed that there was a "competition" for the Hangar 6 facility, and that Ryanair "did not make an offer". This is also untrue. Ryanair have published the written offers it made directly to An Tanaiste in August and September last year, offering to create up to 500 maintenance jobs in Hangar 6 on the basis that Ryanair would be sold or leased the Hangar 6 facility. The Taoiseach's claim that Ryanair did not make an offer for the facility is false.

### **Lie No. 4**

The Taoiseach claimed that there was "a competition" for the Hangar 6 facility is also false. There was no such competition. Ryanair calls on the Taoiseach to publish the terms of this competition (since they don't exist) and he should also confirm how Aer Lingus won this competition in November, when they created not one new job in the Hangar 6 facility, over Ryanair, which offered (last September) to create up to 500 jobs in the facility. How could an airline creating no jobs, win this alleged competition over an airline offering to create 500 jobs. The Taoiseach should explain this false claim.

### **Ryanair's Michael O'Leary said:**

*"It is extraordinary that the Taoiseach has now allowed himself to be tied up in the same lies which have been put about by the DAA for a number of days now. The Tanaiste last night confirmed (1) that the DAA can require Aer Lingus to vacate Hangar 6, (2) this can be done within 12 months (although Ryanair believes it could be done within 12 weeks given that Aer Lingus have moved very little into Hangar 6) and (3) the Taoiseach's claim*

*that Ryanair did not make an offer for the facility or (4) that Aer Lingus "won" a competition for the facility in November despite creating no new jobs whatsoever are all false claims, untruths and falsehoods.*

*Ryanair calls on the Taoiseach to correct these false claims, or alternatively publish the terms of the competition he claims Aer Lingus won last year, and explain to the 800 unemployed SRT engineers on what basis Aer Lingus won this competition (when they have created no jobs and have no heavy maintenance hangar) over Ryanair who offered 500 jobs and can start putting heavy maintenance work into Hangar 6 from September of this year.*

*"The Govt have yet to explain (as the Tanaiste refused to at last night's meeting) why they are allowing Aer Lingus and the DAA to block Hangar 6 which is currently empty, from an airline which is offering to create 300 jobs and allocate a large volume of heavy maintenance work to this facility. Why does the Taoiseach, the Tanaiste and this Govt willingly allow 300 aircraft engineers to draw the dole, while they preside over and defend Aer Lingus blocking the large heavy maintenance Hangar 6 facility, when all of Aer Lingus' heavy maintenance has been contracted overseas for the next 8 years?"*

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