



Our ref: AA1000630
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7/12/2022

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Dear Sir/Madam

British Airways, Qatar Airways and Iberia application for authorisation AA1000630 – interested party consultation

On 22 November 2022, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from British Airways plc (**BA**), Qatar Airways Group Q.C.S.C (**Qatar**) and Iberia Líneas Aéreas de España (**Iberia**) (together, the **Applicants**). This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). The Applicants have sought authorisation to coordinate air passenger services on a number of routes between Australia and the United Kingdom and Europe (the **Proposed Conduct**). BA and Qatar [previously received](#) ACCC authorisation for co-ordination of air passenger services along a number of routes between Australia and the United Kingdom and Europe in 2020. Authorisation is now sought to expand this cooperation and geographic coverage with the inclusion of Iberia.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation for a period of five years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

The Applicants have also requested interim authorisation to allow them to give effect to the Proposed Conduct prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation.

Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **25 January 2023**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account.

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Sam O'Connor via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register. (see [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests](#)).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
22 November 2022	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
7 December 2022	Public consultation process begins.
25 January 2023	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
8 February 2023	Applicants respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
22 February 2023	Interim authorisation decision and draft determination.
February-March 2023	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
March 2023	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Sam O'Connor on 03 9910 9522 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Hilton
Director
Competition Exemptions