



Our ref: AA1000630
Contact officer: Sam O'Connor
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29 March 2023

By email

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Dear Interested Party

British Airways, Qatar Airways and Iberia application for authorisation AA1000630—draft determination & interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by British Airways plc, Qatar Airways Group Q.C.S.C and Iberia Líneas Aéreas de España (together, the **Applicants**) on 22 November 2022.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to enable the Applicants to coordinate air passenger services on routes between Australia and the UK/Europe for 5 years.

The ACCC has also granted interim authorisation to enable the Applicants to commence the proposed conduct while the ACCC is considering their substantive application for authorisation.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and interim authorisation is attached and also available on the ACCC's authorisations [public register](#).

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **17 April 2023**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the [public register](#). If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Sam O'Connor via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases, the applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend, they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by 12 April 2023 by email to exemptions@accc.gov.au.

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
22 November 2022	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
7 December 2022	Public consultation process begins.
29 March 2023	Interim Authorisation decision and draft determination
March-April 2023	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
May 2023	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Sam O'Connor on (03) 9910 9522 or by email at exemptions@accc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tony Hilton
Director
Competition Exemptions