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Tim Grimwade  
General Manager  
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Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
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Dear Mr Grimwade

**APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORISATION : QANTAS AIRWAYS LTD.  
AND BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC. (A30226 AND A30227)**

I refer to your message of 11 June informing us that the ACCC had agreed to grant interim authorisation under the Trade Practices Act 1974 in relation to the above mentioned applications.

Virgin Atlantic understands fully the reasons for your decision. However, we feel that you were placed in a very difficult position by the applicants, whose behaviour in filing so late for authorisation is to be regretted.

Qantas and British Airways were obviously aware of the timescale for applying for authorisation. There can be no excuse for not doing so in time to give the ACCC ample opportunity to review the applications prior to the expiry of the previous authorisation. The result of the applicants' deliberate decision to delay the applications is that their anti-competitive alliance has been unnecessarily extended. Furthermore, the applicants now have every reason to procrastinate with the current applications, for example in responding to requests for additional information or data from the ACCC, since there does not appear to be any penalty involved in not doing so.

We hope that the arrogant behaviour of Qantas and British Airways in this matter has been noted by the Commission.

Yours sincerely



**Barry Humphreys**  
Director of External Affairs and Route Development

