

Reference No: E105/8/67; **Date:** 27/11/81

Circular 5/1981:- Travelling abroad by Aer Lingus

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for the Public Service to refer to Circular 36/71 about travelling by air on official journeys. Special attention should be given to the following points when booking tickets for foreign travel.

- Departments should make a conscious decision to specify Aer Lingus when there is a choice of carriers available, even where there is a pool agreement.
- Departments should choose, whenever practicable, a day for travel on which Aer Lingus operates a direct service.
- On a "through flight" the longest possible Aer Lingus sector, i.e. using Amsterdam or Frankfurt rather than London as a gateway, should be chosen. Booking agents in Ireland tend to use London as their main transit point as flights to most parts of the world may be obtained from there. However, in many cases, the required connecting flights may be obtained at Amsterdam or Frankfurt and Aer Lingus state that it is easier to transit at these airports.
- As a considerable amount of foreign travel is on the Dublin/Brussels route every effort should be made at all times to travel Aer Lingus on that route.

I am to request that these points be brought to the attention of all local authorities and State-sponsored bodies under the control of your Department. (Local authorities and State-sponsored bodies do not, however, qualify for the 10% discount on tickets allowed by Aer Lingus to Departments).

Mise le meas
K. Murphy