



An Roinn Airgeadais
Department of Finance

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European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
State Aid Greffe
B-1049 Brussels.
14 February 2011

Subject: State Aid NN/30/2009 – Ireland – LIP – Hotel Capital Allowances in respect of the Ritz Carlton, Powerscourt, Co. Wicklow.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Irish Authorities acknowledge the contents of the Commission's letter dated 25/01/2011 with regard to the disclosure of certain parts of the Commission's decision in relation to State Aid NN 30/2009 – Ireland, regarding Ritz Carlton Hotel, Powerscourt, Co. Wicklow.

We have shared the communication with KPMG consultants acting for their client, and they have requested consideration of the following amendments in relation to the Commission's decision letter:

1. *Point 1. Reference to yields and expected revenues (paragraphs 13, 25, 29, 64, 66 and footnote 4 of the Commission decision)*

We note that the Commission has accepted not to disclose exact amounts in paragraphs 13, 25, 29, 64, 66 and footnote 4. However, footnote 4 has not been updated for this and we would request that the figure of [REDACTED] be deleted from this footnote. (The figures from the above-mentioned paragraphs have been replaced with [...]).

2. *Point 8. Information concerning the hotels of which Treasury is a passive landlord (paragraphs 102 and 106 of the Commission decision)*

We note that the Commission has accepted not to disclose the names of the hotels of which Treasury is a passive landlord in paragraphs 102 and 106 of the Commission decision. However, the names have not been deleted from all places in paragraph 106

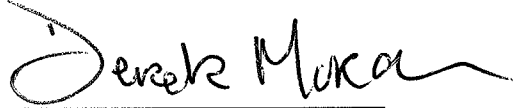
and still remain in the second sentence of this paragraph (ref. top of p.18) – we would request that these be deleted.

3. We also wish to reiterate our request that the Commission would consider replacing the yield figures in paragraphs 13, 25, 29, 64, and 66 with [...]. We note the Commission's proposal to use an appropriate range instead of disclosing the exact figures of the different yields. However, we would point to other instances where figures have been replaced with [...] – see for example paragraphs 15, 19 and 40 and would request that the same be done for the above-mentioned paragraphs. We understand that the deletion of whole sentences cannot be accepted and respect that it may therefore be difficult to adhere to this request.

Apart from the above-mentioned items, in particular 1 and 2, we are satisfied that the Commission's response can be made publicly available.

Ms. Valerie Robinson, State Aid Co-ordinator for the Department of Finance is available to discuss any or all of the above at your convenience, contact details 00 353 1 6045503.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Moran', with a horizontal line underneath.

Derek Moran
Assistant Secretary
Budget, Taxation and Economic Division