

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Mr R Krammer
Head of Corporate Finance at Aviation & Travel Finance, CAA
Via email - Susie.Talbot@caa.co.uk

Dear Reiner

Thank you for your time in coming to see us. There is always a sense of the CAA's feet being stuck in treacle and that no matter how irrefutable the logic and the facts the CAA lack the will to make changes. Previous APC rebate schemes did not require legislation, even the shady 'Agent for the consumer' deal, neither did the lamentable RCN's whereby the Industry swallowed a huge chunk of money belonging to the public who the CAA purports to protect.

The case for recognising the de minimis risk of the 'Gold-standard' approach we adopt is proven by our decades of successful trading and yet the CAA refuse to encourage this ethic. Instead we are forced to pay evermore into this poorly run scheme with outfits failing within weeks of receiving their ATOL Licence. If the ATT were introduced today it would be illegal under the Subsidy Control ACT 2022, which is quite some inditement.

In our discussions there were 2 standout points:

FACT: No ATOL holder with a Trust account *has ever* called upon the ATT!

FACT: At the time of our meeting Trailfinders were safeguarding £337M in Trust on behalf of our Clients. Whereas the ATT had only 35% of this amount to cover the liability of the *whole industry!*

How can it be right that as well as providing 3 times the surety of the ATT we are forced to pay to subsidise the failure of poorly run and poorly regulated competitors. Luxtripper recently joining a very long list of travel providers licenced by the CAA – to fail.

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You said you would come back to us regarding the introduction of a higher payment/rebate to the accredited bodies of £2.49, if all money remains in Trust or escrow until travel is complete. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Kelly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Toby Kelly
CEO

Cc: Rt Hon Huw Merriman MP, Minister of State for Transport
Rob Bishton, Chief Executive, CAA
Michael Budge, Head of ATOL, CAA
Louise Haigh MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport
Sir Michael Gooley CBE, Founder and Executive Chairman, Trailfinders
John O'Dowd, Legal & Regulatory Director, Trailfinders
Matt Peacock & Dan Tench, CMS Legal Services EEIG