



PRESS RELEASE

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Captain John Goss - dismissed by Ryanair

The high cost of speaking out in low cost Ryanair.

Captain John Goss, former Ryanair Flight Safety Officer and a veteran of the company with a 26 year blemish free record, was dismissed from his employment yesterday. John was recently elected as a Ryanair pilot member of the Interim Council of the Ryanair Pilot Group (RPG).

"This is a particularly difficult time for John and his family. We will provide every support possible to enable John to deal with this challenging situation" was the initial response of the RPG Chairman, Evert van Zwol. He went on to say "I appreciate that the media would like to have direct contact with John but I am sure you will understand his first priority is to look after his family and to seek legal advice on his options".

John's dismissal by the company shows the hollowness of Ryanair's promise to legally protect the pilots who took part in the Channel 4 Dispatches programme, if those pilots revealed their identities. The very pilot who freely identified himself on the programme, and spoke about the general lack of confidence by pilots in the broader regulatory system, has suffered instant dismissal. The RPG Chairman notes - "Is it any surprise that over 1000 Ryanair pilots have indicated in a safety attitude survey that they are reluctant and fearful of making safety reports through internal or external channels?"

On the wider media reporting on the Channel 4 Dispatches programme dealing with safety matters, Captain van Zwol comments: "It is simply extraordinary that the immediate reaction of Ryanair to safety issues brought to their attention is to deny the existence of any problems and to effectively shoot the messenger. Safety experts are agreed that a sound safety culture is based on pilots having faith in a non-punitive approach and dealing directly and transparently with all concerns raised." He adds: "Dismissing John further calls into question the trustworthiness and truthfulness of Ryanair management when it comes to the traditional industry norm of free discussion of safety issues in the public domain. Their chosen approach is apparently to suppress discussion, on grounds that have never been clarified".

Supported by ECA Members Associations, the Ryanair Pilot Group (RPG) encompasses all pilots operating for Ryanair. Our primary concern as Professional Air Line Pilots is Safety. Our goal is to gain fair representation and change the culture in our workplace. For more information on the Ryanair Pilot Group, visit www.ryanairpilotgroup.com



A review of Ryanair's legal actions against individuals and organisations highlights a wide gap between their rhetoric to the media and their truthfulness before the courts. In a recent case before the Irish High Court, the final comment in the presiding judge's ruling stated:

"Having had to consider Ryanair's untruths to the Court, its untruths about the Court and its untruths about the Minister, one has to conclude that the truth and Ryanair are uncomfortable bedfellows" (Mr Justice Peter Kelly, High Court Judge June 2010).

This adds to a catalogue of comments from judges in a range of cases rejecting Ryanair managers' evidence as unreliable or less than truthful in cases before courts and tribunals. "With a public track record such as this, what confidence can anyone have in Ryanair managers being truthful in their media performances, if they repeatedly fail so publicly to be truthful before the courts?" Captain van Zwol asks.

Contrary to ill-informed comment, the RPG's survey of Ryanair pilots' regarding safety reporting concerns was brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities in both Ryanair and the Irish Aviation Authority. Neither accepted an offer to review and discuss the survey. Now, instead of dealing with particularly worrying *prima facie* evidence of a potential safety reporting problem, both organisations continue to ignore the substance of the safety issues involved. In fact both organisations choose to deny that over 1,000 Ryanair pilots could possibly have anything relevant to say. One is particularly struck by the similarity of the statements from Ryanair and the IAA.

Their common reaction and rhetoric begs the obvious question posed by the RPG Chairman, Captain van Zwol – "Who is addressing the underlying safety concerns raised here? Legal threats may silence people, but they do not make safety concerns, or realities, go away; so who in Ireland is addressing the underlying safety-related concerns that have been expressed? The answer, apparently, is 'nobody'."

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