

Changes to Legislation: as of 14 December 2025, this Act is up to date with all changes known to be in force.



Number 10 of 2004

AER LINGUS ACT 2004

REVISED

Updated to 1 October 2020

This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the *Aer Lingus Act 2004*. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.

All Acts up to and including the *Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020* (15/2020), enacted 2 October 2020, and all statutory instruments up to and including the *Civil Law and Criminal Law (Designated Body - Agriculture) Order 2020* (S.I. No. 411 of 2020), made 1 October 2020, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Interpretation and construction.
2. Repeals.
3. Power to hold, sell or dispose of shares in Company.
4. Power to issue shares.
5. Agreements relating to sale or issue of shares in Company.
6. Number of directors of Company and of worker directors under Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1977 to 2001.
7. Employee shareholding schemes.
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8. Non-application of section 60 of Companies Act 1963.
9. Superannuation schemes.
10. Expenses.
11. Provision as to certain loans.
12. Certain Acts not to apply to Company.
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SCHEDULE

REPEAL OF ENACTMENTS

ACTS REFERRED TO

Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1969	1969, No. 20
Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1976	1976, No. 36
Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1978	1978, No. 28
Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1983	1983, No. 3
Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1993	1993, No. 38
Air Companies Act 1966	1966, No. 4
Air Companies Acts 1966 to 1993	

Companies Act 1963	1963, No. 33
Companies Acts 1963 to 2003	
Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001	
Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997	1997, No. 31
Taxes Consolidation Act 1997	1997, No. 39
Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Act 1977	1977, No. 6
Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1977 to 2001	



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AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOLDING, TRANSFER, DISPOSAL, EXCHANGE AND SALE OF SHARES IN AER LINGUS GROUP PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE OF SHARES BY THAT COMPANY, TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES OF THAT COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES, TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO AERLINTÉ, TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE AIR COMPANIES ACT 1966, TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE WORKER PARTICIPATION (STATE ENTERPRISES) ACTS 1977 TO 2001, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ENACTMENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

[7th April, 2004]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

Interpretation and construction.

1. —(1) In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires—

“Aerlinté” means the company incorporated as Aerlinté Eireann Teoranta on 26 February 1947, which company is now incorporated under the name “Santain Developments Limited”;

“Air Companies Acts” means the Air Companies Acts 1966 to 1993;

“Act of 1969” means [the Air Companies \(Amendment\) Act 1969](#);

“Act of 1993” means [the Air Companies \(Amendment\) Act 1993](#);

“Companies Acts” means the Companies Acts 1963 to 2003, and every other enactment which is to be construed as one with those Acts;

“Company” means Aer Lingus Group public limited company;

“Minister” means the Minister for Transport;

“subsidiary” has the same meaning as it has in [section 155 of the Companies Act 1963](#).

(2) In this Act—

(a) a reference to a section or Schedule is a reference to a section of, or the Schedule to, this Act unless it is indicated that reference to some other enactment is intended,

(b) a reference to a subsection, paragraph or subparagraph is a reference to the subsection, paragraph or subparagraph of the provision in which the reference occurs unless it is indicated that reference to some other provision is intended,

(c) a reference to any enactment is a reference to that enactment as amended, extended or adapted by or under any subsequent enactment (including this Act).

Repeals.

2. —Each enactment specified in the *Schedule* is repealed to the extent specified in column (3) of that Schedule.

Power to hold, sell or dispose of shares in Company.

3. —(1) The Minister for Finance may hold for so long as he or she thinks fit any shares in the Company subscribed for, taken up or acquired by that Minister under the Air Companies Acts.

(2) Subject to *subsection (4)*, the Minister for Finance may, at such time or times as appear to him or her appropriate, sell, transfer, exchange, surrender, redeem or dispose of all or any of the shares in the Company on such terms and conditions as appear to that Minister to be appropriate.

(3) Any funds received in respect of the sale, transfer, disposal, surrender or redemption of any share to which *subsection (2)* refers shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer.

(4) Before exercising any of the powers conferred on him or her by *subsection (2)*, the Minister for Finance shall consult with the Minister.

(5) The Minister for Finance may not dispose of any shares in the Company without the general principles of the disposal being laid before and approved by Dáil Éireann.

(6) *Subsection (5)* shall not apply to the exercise of powers conferred on the Minister for Finance by *section 7*.

Power to issue shares.

4. —Notwithstanding anything contained in the Air Companies Acts, the Company may in accordance with the Companies Acts—

(a) issue new shares, and

(b) divide and sub-divide shares into one or more than one class and attach thereto respectively any preferential, deferred, qualified or special rights, privileges or conditions in accordance with the Companies Acts.

Agreements relating to sale or issue of shares in Company.

5. —(1) The Minister for Finance, having consulted the Minister, may enter into one or more than one agreement in connection with the sale or issue of shares in the Company or enter into one or more than one agreement in connection with both the sale and issue of shares in the Company, and any such agreement may include—

(a) representations, warranties and indemnities and provisions relating thereto,

(b) provisions customarily contained in a shareholders' agreement or an underwriting agreement, and

(c) such other matters as the Minister for Finance, having consulted the Minister, shall consent to.

(2) The Company may enter into one or more than one agreement in connection with the sale or issue of shares in the Company or in connection with both the sale and issue of shares in the Company.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing an agreement referred to in *subsection (1)* or *(2)* may include provisions relating to—

(a) amendments to the memorandum of association or articles of association of the Company,

- (b) directors,
- (c) shareholders,
- (d) voting rights,
- (e) dividend policy,
- (f) investments, and
- (g) restrictions on the alienability of shares.

Number of
directors of
Company and of
worker directors
under Worker
Participation
(State
Enterprises) Acts
1977 to 2001.

6.—(1) Section 12 of the Act of 1966 (as amended by section 8 of the Act of 1993) is amended by substituting “such number not exceeding 12” for “such number not exceeding eight”.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1977 to 2001, or any order or warrant made under those Acts, with effect from the commencement of this subsection those Acts shall cease to apply to the Company, and any person appointed a director of the Company under **section 15 of the Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Act 1977** and holding such office immediately prior to such commencement shall thereupon cease to hold such office.

(3) *Subsection (2)* shall come into operation on such day as the Minister may by order appoint.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1977 to 2001, or any order or warrant made under those Acts, the Minister may by order reduce the number of directors of the Company appointed pursuant to those Acts.

(5) The Minister may by order amend or revoke an order made pursuant to *subsection (4)* including an order made under this subsection.

(6) On the coming into operation of an order pursuant to *subsection (4)* or (5) reducing the number of directors appointed to the Company pursuant to the Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1977 to 2001, one or more (as the provisions of the order necessitate) of the directors so appointed shall retire as director of the Company, which person or persons shall be chosen by lot in the absence of agreement between all of the directors then serving as a director of the Company pursuant to those Acts.

Employee
shareholding
schemes.

7.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Air Companies Acts the Company may issue shares in accordance with the Companies Acts as part of one or more than one employee shareholding scheme.

(2) The Minister for Finance may, as part of one or more than one employee shareholding scheme, sell, transfer, exchange or surrender, redeem or otherwise dispose of shares in the Company held by him or her subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by that Minister, and may enter agreements regarding any such shares.

(3) Before exercising the powers conferred on him or her by *subsection (2)* the Minister for Finance shall consult with the Minister.

F1[Confirmation
of certain
matters.

7A.—(1) Notwithstanding *section 13(2)* and the Aer Lingus Act 2004 (Commencement of Certain Provisions) Order 2005—

- (a) *section 2* (in so far as it relates to *section 5(2)* of the Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1993), and
- (b) *section 7*,

are deemed to have come into operation on 19 August 2004.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (1)*, the issue of shares in Aer Lingus Group public limited company on 20 August 2004 is confirmed and deemed always to have had full effect.

(3) Nothing in this *section* shall affect any proceedings commenced in any court concerning the validity of the issue of shares in the Company under *section 7* where those proceedings were commenced before 8 March 2006.]

Non-application
of section 60 of
Companies Act
1963.

8. —(1) Section 60 of the Companies Act 1963 shall not apply to—

(a) any representation made or warranty or indemnity given by the Company or any subsidiary of the Company in connection with the sale or transfer by the Minister for Finance, or the issue by the Company, of any shares in the Company, or

(b) any financial obligations undertaken by the Company or any subsidiary of the Company in connection with the sale or transfer by the Minister for Finance of any shares in the Company, or the issue by the Company, of any shares in the Company,

for the purposes of an agreement entered into by that Minister under *section 5(1)* of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (13)(b) of **section 60 of the Companies Act 1963**, section 60 of that Act shall not apply to the provision, whether directly or indirectly, by the Company or any subsidiary thereof of money or a financial arrangement including a loan, guarantee, the provision of security or otherwise in connection with the purchase of, or subscription for, shares in the Company or its holding company by an employee share ownership trust established by the Company, or the transfer thereto of such shares, irrespective of whether or not all or a portion of such shares are pledged as security or otherwise to any third party.

Superannuation
schemes.

9. F2[...]

Expenses.

10. —Moneys required by the Minister for Finance or the Minister to meet amounts payable by either or both of them in respect of the disposal of shares or rights in shares in the Company shall be paid out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas.

Provision as to
certain loans.

11. —(1) The sums advanced to Aerlinte by the Minister for Finance pursuant to section 3 of the Act of 1969 shall be deemed to have been advanced to Aer Lingus Limited, and notwithstanding section 3 of the Act of 1969, all sums advanced to Aerlinte pursuant to that section shall be repaid by Aer Lingus Limited to the Minister for Finance on such date as may be designated for that purpose by the Minister.

(2) Subject to this section, until the sums advanced under section 3 of the Act of 1969 are repaid to the Minister for Finance, the terms affecting such sums shall continue to apply and shall be construed as if every reference to Aerlinte in that section and in any associated documentation relating to the sums advanced were a reference to Aer Lingus Limited.

(3) Where the sums advanced pursuant to section 3 of the Act of 1969 (or any part of such sums) have not been repaid to the Minister at any time after the date for repayment designated by the Minister pursuant to *subsection (1)* has passed, such sums together with any interest due may be recovered from the Company by the Minister for Finance as a simple contract debt.

(4) Any funds received by the Minister for Finance in respect of sums of money referred to in this section shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer.

Certain Acts not to apply to Company.

12. —(1) With effect from the coming into operation of this subsection, the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001, shall cease to apply to the Company.

(2) With effect from the coming into operation of this subsection, **the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997** shall cease to apply to the Company.

(3) With effect from the coming into operation of this subsection, **section 521 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997** shall cease to apply to the Company.

Short title and commencement.

13. —(1) This Act may be cited as **the Aer Lingus Act 2004**.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may by order or orders appoint either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions and in particular as respects the repeals effected by **section 2**, different days may be appointed as respects—

- (a) different enactments specified in the *Schedule*,
- (b) different provisions of those enactments, or
- (c) different purposes.

SCHEDULE

REPEAL OF ENACTMENTS

Number and Year (1)	Short Title (2)	Extent of Repeal (3)
4 of 1966	Air Companies Act 1966	The whole Act, in so far as it is unrepealed.
20 of 1969	Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1969	The whole Act, in so far as it is unrepealed.
36 of 1976	Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1976	The whole Act, in so far as it is unrepealed.
28 of 1978	Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1978	The whole Act.
3 of 1983	Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1983	The whole Act.
38 of 1993	Air Companies (Amendment) Act 1993	The whole Act, in so far as it is unrepealed.



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About this Revised Act

This Revised Act presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was passed.

Related legislation

This Act is not collectively cited with any other Act.

Annotations

This Revised Act is not annotated and only shows textual amendments. An annotated version of this revision is also available which shows textual and non-textual amendments and their sources. It also shows editorial notes including statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available. A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1972, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at www.irishstatutebook.ie.