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BALPA CASE TO COMMENCE IN THE HIGH COURTS OF JUSTICE ON MAY 19TH

4th April 2008

In response to the claim put forward by BALPA to the Queens Bench Division of the High Courts of Justice a date has been set for the trial.

The Court will hear the case from Monday 19th May with the proceedings expected to take one week.

BALPA has instructed specialist Counsel to represent the Association.

Our Lead Counsel will be John Hendy QC of Old Square Chambers. John works predominantly in the fields of industrial relations and employment. A list of his cases and C.V. can be found on the Chambers' website: www.oldsquare.co.uk.

Assisting him is Damian Brown of Littleton Chambers. Damian is listed in the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners as a leading junior in his field. For many years now his main areas of work have been employment law and sports law. He has particular expertise in injunctive relief in restrictive covenant and industrial action cases. His injunctive and industrial action work has included appearances in the House of Lords and European Court of Justice. For more information visit: www.littletonchambers.com

BALPA has also retained the services of Mark Brealey QC, who will advise on points regarding European Law. Mark was directly involved in the recent " Viking Case". Further details about Mark's C.V. can be found at www.brickcourt.co.uk

Legal documents from both parties have now been filed with the Court setting out the particulars of claim for declaratory relief for BALPA and BA's response.

In its documents British Airways has set out its defence to BALPA's claim, and has filed a counterclaim for damages as a result of damage and harm to BA's reputation and brand due to the strike ballot and uncertainty resulting from potential industrial action. Given BA's self-inflicted damage to its reputation and brand over the opening of T5, BALPA sees this claim as somewhat ironic.

It is also interesting to note that BA has asserted that the Board cancelled a further European venture whilst the dispute over Schedule K continues, thus confirming BALPA's fears that 'OpenSkies' was just the first of many new European ventures which will not be flown by BA pilots.

Further information will be made available via the campaign website as matters proceed.

We will win this dispute with the full unwavering support of the membership.