



Ryanair passengers stranded in Krakow

We were not offered hotel rooms, travellers claim

By Eamon Donoghue

RYANAIR faces growing anger from stranded passengers awaiting a flight from Krakow to Dublin for over 24 hours.

The passengers claim they received no accommodation expenses and, as of last night, their ordeal was not over as the flight looked set to be cancelled or diverted due to adverse weather conditions.

Severe fog caused flights from the Polish airport to be cancelled on Sunday and Tuesday, but irate passengers claim they were left in the dark for hours over the delays. Some say that they did not receive any offer of a hotel or compensation from Ryanair.

One customer, Magdalena Kantor, told RTE Radio's Liveline her 9.20pm flight to Dublin was cancelled on Tuesday night, and she learned of this on Twitter.

Ms Kantor said those in Dublin were aware of the delay before her and her fellow passengers.

She claims she was offered a refund but no overnight accommodation. Ryanair insists otherwise.



Airline chief: Michael O'Leary

Luckily for Ms Kantor, she has family in the city, although she says a number of passengers were stranded in the airport.

'We were offered a refund or to rebook our flight but we had nowhere to stay,' she told Joe Duffy yesterday.

'We found out from Krakow Airport Twitter that our plane was trying to get to Krakow. And we were informed after over three hours that our flight was cancelled.'

Ms Kantor was awaiting confirmation of her evening departure last night, relying on a diversion to Katowice airport as fog continues to delay, divert and cancel flights from Krakow.

A Norwegian passenger who was also waiting to fly to Dublin posted a picture on social media on Tuesday of her friend asleep on the airport floor, writing: 'My friend has set up camp in Krakow Airport. Will we be getting home tonight?'

Ryanair issued a statement yesterday saying: 'Due to adverse weather conditions in Krakow over the past number of days, Ryanair was regrettably forced to cancel two flights to Dublin (on Sunday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 28).

'Will we get home tonight?'

'Affected customers have been provided with overnight hotel accommodation and refreshment vouchers during this delay, in full compliance with EU261 legislation. Customers have had the option to transfer on to other available flights from Krakow this week and from other Ryanair airports free of charge.'

Ryanair states that under EU 261 legislation, if you are involuntarily denied boarding or if your flight is cancelled or delayed by more than two hours, you will be offered free of charge: meals and refreshment vouchers in reasonable relation to the waiting time, as long as it will not further delay the departure of the aircraft; two telephone calls, telex or fax messages or e-mails; hotel accommodation in cases where a stay of one or more nights becomes necessary, or where a stay additional to that intended by you becomes necessary, and transport between the airport and your place of accommodation.

In addition the company's website says: 'Where it is not feasible for Ryanair to arrange the care set out above, Ryanair will reimburse you for your reasonable receipted expenses upon application.'

It added it 'sincerely apologises to all customers affected by these weather cancellations, and we are working hard to re-accommodate customers as soon as possible'.

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Hiker's advice to cope with ordeal

A WOMAN who got trapped overnight on a mountain in thick fog has warned walkers to take precautions before setting off on hiking trips.

Mai Murphy, who got lost on Killarney's Mangerton Mountain this week, told RTE's Seán O'Rourke yesterday: 'It was a black fog but I thought I could get out of it. I tried to find out what direction I should go but I just couldn't.'

'You have to have the gear. I had food and that's another thing that's very vital, to take plenty of food with you.'

Ms Murphy said she managed to get through the night because: 'My gear was good but I was still cold... the food I had kept me going until the morning.'

Has Kim got a doppelganger?

KIM Kardashian said people in Ireland didn't recognise her when she was here on honeymoon with Kanye West.



The 34-year-old said in an interview: 'Oh my gosh. Like, if I'm in a place that I'm not expected to be in - like Ireland... - they say, "Oh my gosh, you look just like Kim Kardashian," and I'm, like, "I get that all the time."'

The couple were spotted at a Portlaoise cinema during their May trip, prompting suggestions they were bored. But in June, Kim tweeted: 'Had the best, most relaxing romantic honeymoon in Ireland & Prague!'

Pope Francis is 'no communist'

POPE Francis has insisted that caring about the poor does not make him a 'communist' as he is simply following Catholic teachings.

He lamented that 'land, housing and work are increasingly unavailable to the majority' of the world's population.

He then added: 'If I talk like this, there are those who say that the Pope is a communist.'

'Church doctrine commands that all Catholics fight against the 'structural causes of poverty and inequality', he told the World Meeting of Popular Movements in Rome. He warned: 'The phenomenon of exploitation and oppression has taken on a new dimension.'

Kilkenny's own Prince William

KILKENNY actor Rory Fleck-Byrne, right, will play Prince William in King Charles III in the West End next month.



The 'future history' play opened to critical acclaim earlier this year.

It centres on the queen dying and Prince Charles taking on the throne.

It's quite a departure from 27-year-old Byrne's role as a chef on RTE2's *Damo and Ivor* last month.

He also recently performed with Maud In Cahoots for its live concept album *The Well Rested Terrorist* as part of Tiger Dublin Fringe.

Young man dies in motorbike crash

A YOUNG motorcyclist has died after a traffic accident in Co. Donegal. The man's motorbike was in collision with a 4x4, towing a trailer outside the village of Raphoe.

The accident happened off the Ballinalcey Crossroads at Oakfield Demense, just after 4pm, yesterday.

The victim has not been named, although it is understood that he is married to a local woman, but is originally from Co. Monaghan. The road was closed overnight for the accident scene investigators to arrive this morning, and road diversions have been set in place.

Garda Inspector Goretta Sheridan appealed for witnesses.



Rape claim: Mairia Cahill

Meeting with 'Cahill four' still not set

CONTACTS are continuing between the Taoiseach and Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams over a possible meeting between Enda Kenny and four people accused of being involved in a republican investigation into Mairia Cahill's allegations of rape.

A spokesman for the Taoiseach last night said: 'The Taoiseach has written to Gerry Adams in reference to a request made last Wednesday in Leaders' Questions that the Taoi-

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seach meet with the four people referred to in Leaders' Questions.'

But Mr Adams then disputed this, as he claimed he wrote to the Taoiseach first last week, as had two others who were accused in the media.

He and these two had both received acknowledgements, but had not been formally replied to regarding an actual meeting. 'The Taoiseach has yet to confirm a meeting with any of us,'

he added. A Dáil exchange between Mr Adams and the Taoiseach last week was one of the tensest in the chamber in recent times as Mr Adams became the centre of questioning in a dramatic role reversal during Leaders' Questions.

Meanwhile, DUP deputy leader Nigel Dodds urged a 'full and proper' investigation into the claims that sexual abuse was covered up by Sinn Féin. He told the Commons there must not be a 'whitewash of the black sins of Sinn Féin' over the claims.