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MFSA Launches Public Consultation on New Framework for Aircraft Financial Leasing Companies

The Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) has [launched](#) a Public Consultation on a proposed notification-based regulatory framework for aircraft financial leasing companies, marking a significant step in enhancing and modernising the regulatory environment for aviation finance in Malta.

Recognising the global importance of financial leasing to the aviation industry, the MFSA is taking proactive measures to introduce a more practical and efficient regulatory framework. In developing this proposal, the Authority has collaborated closely with the Malta Financial Services Advisory Council and is now advancing the update of the applicable regulatory framework.

The proposed framework envisages a shift from a traditional licensing model to a notified regime for companies managing high-value aviation assets that meet specific thresholds, whilst maintaining high regulatory standards and robust supervisory oversight.

By simplifying the market entry requirements for eligible aircraft and engine leasing structures, the MFSA aims to strengthen Malta's positioning as a more competitive and responsive jurisdiction for international aviation finance. This initiative is expected to attract new institutional participants, further diversifying the local financial services ecosystem while reinforcing Malta's reputation as a specialist jurisdiction for high-value asset management.

Commenting on the launch of the consultation, MFSA's Head of Strategy Policy and Innovation, Clare Farrugia stated: *"As we continue to enhance Malta's standing as a centre of excellence for financial services, it is vital that our regulatory frameworks reflect the operational realities and practicalities of the industry. The proposed framework provides a clear and efficient route for reputable aircraft financial leasing companies to operate in Malta. It upholds high regulatory standards while ensuring the jurisdiction remains competitive and responsive to the evolving needs of the international aviation industry".*

The MFSA is inviting stakeholders to provide feedback on both the general features of the proposed framework and the draft legislative instruments intended to bring these changes

into effect and is particularly encouraging input from industry participants, professional advisors and other interested parties.

Interested parties are encouraged to send their comments no later than **9 February 2026**. The Consultation Document, relevant documentation and instructions for submission of feedback can be [found](#) on the MFSA's website.

About MFSA

The Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) is the single regulator of financial services in Malta, covering banks, insurance companies, investment services, trusts and pensions. In 2018, the MFSA became the first European regulator to develop a framework to regulate virtual financial assets. The MFSA's mission, as enshrined in its Strategic Statement, is to enhance its position as an independent, proactive and trustworthy supervisory authority with the main purpose of safeguarding the integrity of markets and maintaining stability within the financial sector, for the benefit and protection of consumers. The MFSA licenses over 2,000 entities to operate in the financial services sector.

