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AIRLINE CHIEF ATTACKS SIZE RESTRICTIONS ON HAND BAGGAGE

Michael O'Leary, chief executive of Ryanair, yesterday attacked the government's decision to limit the size of carry-on bags in the wake of the foiling of the alleged plot to blow up passenger jets, writes Kevin Done.

"The size of the bag makes no difference whatsoever to security. A large briefcase is no more or less secure than the normal IATA-approved carry-on bag. It is this illogical and totally ineffective security restriction that is handing the extremists an

unwarranted and undeserved victory," he said in an internet discussion on FT.com.

He said: "If these requirements really did add to passenger security, they would of course be applied to all UK inbound flights, the London Underground and Eurotunnel. The sooner the government gets back to normality at the British airports, the sooner we will defeat these terrorists and extremists.

"What we urgently need for both business and ordinary

passengers is to return UK airport security to normal, in the same way as the UK government successfully restored the London Underground to normal two days after the 7/7 outrage."

Red24, the security agency, warned against a "whole load of company executives from the same company travelling together". "If they do, and there is an accident, you could end up with a scenario where the entire board of a company disappears in one go," it said.