



ALTERNATIVES: Donald Trump

## Trump may bring in new travel ban law

By Julie Pace

DONALD Trump is considering signing a "brand new order" after his refugee and immigration travel ban was halted in court.

The US president, speaking to reporters on Air Force One, said he expected his administration to win the legal battle over his original directive.

But he said the White House was also considering other alternatives, including making unspecified changes to the order, which could address some of the legal issues.

As Mr Trump flew to Florida for the weekend, his advisers debated their next steps after the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a restraining order on the original travel ban.

The White House directive had suspended the nation's refugee programme and barred all entries from seven Muslim-majority countries. The president has cast the order as crucial for national security.

Earlier, he promised to take action "very rapidly" to protect the US and its citizens in the wake of the appeal court decision, but he did not specify what steps he planned to take.

"We'll be doing things to continue to make our country safe," Mr Trump pledged at a news conference with Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe.

"It will happen rapidly. We will not allow people into our country who are looking to do harm to our people."

The president's comments were far more restrained than his angry reaction to last week's initial court ruling blocking the travel ban when he attacked both the "so-called judge" in that case and the ruling, which he called "ridiculous".

But Mr Trump continued to conjure images of unspecified danger, saying he had "learned tremendous things that you could only learn, frankly, if you were in a certain position, namely president".

"And there are tremendous threats to our country. We will not allow that to happen, I can tell you that. We will not allow that to happen," he said.

The 9th Circuit ruling represented a significant setback for Mr Trump in just his third week in office.

The Trump administration has said the seven nations — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — have raised terrorism concerns.

# Forge claim against NI-linked developer



## Alleged Spanish scammer accused over documents

By Christopher Woodhouse

**A SPANISH developer alleged to have scammed over 50 Northern Irish investors in a multi-million pound property deal has been accused of forging documents.**

More than 1,000 buyers from the UK and Ireland lost £45m after Birmingham-based Ocean View Properties (OVP) was formally dissolved in 2009.

OVP was the exclusive agent for the Manilva Gardens luxury holiday complex in Estepona on the Costa del Sol.

It was behind successful overseas property enterprises, but ran into difficulties as UK agent for Spanish developer Ricardo Miranda Miret.

A claim for fraud and misappropriation of funds was lodged in February 2011 in a bid to recover deposits paid by investors to OVP.

It has more than 50 Northern Irish investors among 120 claimants for £9.2m.

A second class action complaint for £2m, brought by 30 British and Irish investors, was filed in 2013.

Many Northern Irish investors remortgaged homes to finance their dream luxury buys.

One local investor was Armagh ex-teacher Ollie Reel, who now works for a firm helping investors to recover their lost money.

Mr Reel and his three brothers sank thousands of pounds into the deal, but have managed to get some of it back.

"It started in 2006 and through a few good friends, mainly in GAA circles, they invested in Spain and I was persuaded at that time it could be good for me as well and I couldn't lose out," he told an Irish radio station.

"The economy was booming and everyone was going mad buying property, like everyone else I got caught up in the euphoria of it all.

"If only I had known what was ahead of me, I would never have considered it.

"The investment I was involved in was in Estepona in Spain and there was about 100 of us on both sides of the border, I suppose we lost a combined €12m.



DEVELOPER: Ricardo Miranda Miret

"These apartments were all fully furnished, they were very good at advertising it, they flew groups of us down to Spain and we stood on the actual site and we were all taken in by owning a new property in Spain."

He added: "The company went bust and it was down to the fact that the developer who was building our property hadn't even got a building licence."

Mr Reel explained that after going through Spanish lawyers, he eventually was able to recover around half of his £145,000 deposit through a group called



INVESTOR: Ollie Reel and above Estepona Beach, where clients were told their apartments would be built

the Claims Bureau. He now works as a consultant for the group.

The Madrid High Court probe has been beset by delays and setbacks. An investigating judge was replaced after he was found to have family ties to Mr Miranda Miret.

In the latest twist, the developer is accused of submitting forged documents in the criminal action.

A spokesman for Marbella-based legal firm Lawbird said: "By using these documents, supposedly signed by the secretary of Ocean View in Spain, the developer tried to prove that they had formally notified the estate agent that it was not possible to continue selling apartments as no licences were in place

and they didn't own the land where the development was to be built."

Final witness statements for OVP are to be given on Wednesday.

Following these submissions, the judge will decide if the case should proceed to trial.

Mr Miranda Miret and others accused have all strongly denied any wrongdoing.

Former Aston Villa captain Gareth Barry and BBC's Homes Under The Hammer star Martin Roberts (left), who starred on I'm a Celebrity, were among those duped into marketing luxury off-plan apartments for the firm, though neither benefited in any way, or had any knowledge of the alleged irregularities.

