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Stelios calls in City watchdog

EASYJET'S outspoken founder has referred the airline to the City watchdog in the latest escalation in a row over a huge order for planes with Airbus.

Sir Stelios Haji-ioannou has been at loggerheads with Easyjet's board for weeks over the £4.5bn order for 107 aircraft, which he wants the company to cancel as it battles to stay afloat.

His legal team has now sent a complaint to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) after Easyjet last week agreed a deal with Airbus to defer the delivery of 24 of the planes. He wants the FCA to force Easyjet to put the move to a shareholder vote and make the airline release more information about the arrangement.

Easyjet has grounded its 344 planes, furloughed thousands of staff and arranged a £600m loan. It said: 'The company is well aware of its obligations and constantly reviews its obligations under the Market Abuse Regulation.'

■ BUDGET carrier Wizz Air is to make almost a fifth of its workforce redundant, furlough others and cut pilot and cabin crew salaries by an average of 14pc.