# Submission to Fingal County Council: Aircraft Noise Consultation

## Application by the DAA in relation to taking of a ‘relevant action’ only within the meaning of Section 34C of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, at Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin

**Submission on behalf of Cllr Ann Graves and Louise O’Reilly TD**

## The proposed relevant action relates to the night-time use of the runway system at Dublin Airport and the amendment of the operating restriction set out in condition no. 3(d) and the replacement of the operating restriction in condition no. 5 of the North Runway Planning Permission (Fingal County Council Reg. Ref. No. F04A/1755; ABP Ref. No. PL06F.217429 as amended by Fingal County Council F19A/0023, ABP Ref. No. ABP-305289-19), as well as proposing new noise mitigation measures.

## Conditions no. 3(d) and 5 have not yet come into effect or operation, the construction of the North Runway is ongoing. If this is approved it will remove the cap on the number of flights permitted during the night time hours agreed as part of the planning permission and replace it with an annual night=time quota during extended hours. The application uses 2018 as the baseline for the noise quota system, which was one of the busiest year for flights – implying that there is no increase.

## It will also change the international recognised definition of night-time flights from between 11pm and 7am daily, due to come into effect in accordance with the North Runway Planning Permission and extend it to between 11.30pm and 6am and also to allow flights to take off from and/or land on the North Runway for an additional 2 hours, substantially increasing the number of flights inwards and outwards stipulated in the permission.

**Impact on Residents**

Although there has been a reduction in flights due to the Covid emergency, residents were still enduring high flight numbers at night. The current number is much higher than the 65 flights per night which is allowed for under the current planning grant of permission.

Conditions 3 and 5 of the planning approval specifically refer to the night time operation of the runways. These conditions were inserted with the approval of the DAA to protect the local communities from aircraft noise during night hours.

Aircraft noise is considered he most significant cause of adverse community reaction relating to expansion and operation of airports, this is evident in many studies into the effects of noise on people’s health. Extending night-time flight times will have a detrimental effect on members of communities – physically as well as mentally. Quality of life of residents in surrounding communities have to be taken into account.

A significant number of houses will require grants to insulate their houses against both day and nightime aircraft noise. Residents will have to sleep with their windows constantly closed, with their sleep disrupted by noise. This impacts on all members of the communities affected, children attending school, workers who have to attend work and elderly vulnerable people.

The impact on people’s lives will be wide spread, covering all of Swords, Fingal and beyond. We support the residents who will be affected and we also support the submission from St Margaret’s, the Ward Residents relating to this matter.

**Environmental effects**

The Irish Government, major corporations, international agencies and other governments are committed to reducing their carbon footprint. The impact on the environment has finally been recognised and steps are being taken to reduce carbon emissions into the future. Additional flights will substantially increase carbon emissions and a greener approach taken in relation to travel.

Environmentally the cost to increasing flights is high, aviation is one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the most climate-intensive form of transport.

Unless measures are taken, growth in aviation emissions will result in them amounting to all or nearly all of the annual global CO2 emissions budget by 2050, if climate change is to be held to a temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius or less.

COVID has resulted in virtual or online meetings becoming the norm, it is likely that this will continue and as a result the number of business travellers will decrease as this will become the norm so the need for early flights into and out of Dublin is very likely to drop thereby justifying a reduction rather than increase in the number of flights for the foreseeable future.

**Recommendation**

In order to protect our communities, residents and the environment – we recommend that this application be refused to ensure that the quality of life, health and well being of our residents and communities are protected. And that the ever growing issues with the growth in aviation emissions can be decreased rather than added to by increasing the number of flights.

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