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Irish Welcome - *Cuirim Fáilte Roimh Ghaeilge*

Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

Oifigeach Poiblí Ainmnithe faoin Acht um Brústocaireacht a Rialáil 2015

28 February 2022

The Director of Services

Aircraft Noise Competent Authority

Fingal County Council, Via email aircraftnoiseconsultation@fingal.ie

County Hall, Main St., Swords, Co. Dublin, K67X8Y2

Re. Public Consultation on Aircraft Noise

Dear Director,

I welcome this consultation. My views are as follows.

1. The European Commission has stated* that *'exposure to noise results in a number of health endpoints due to prolonged and frequent exposure to transport noise. These health endpoints can take a multitude of forms. Health endpoints for which significant evidence is available are ((WHO, 2011; (WHO, 2017-2018); (Defra, 2014)): ischaemic heart disease; stroke; dementia; hypertension; annoyance.'* (European Commission 2019)
2. The same study also states that *'Epidemiological studies show that the noise induced health effects during the night are higher than during the day as a consequence of sleep disturbance. Therefore, noise disturbances at night will lead to higher marginal costs than during the day.'*
3. The proposal to introduce a Noise Abatement Objective for the airport, which would see aircraft noise halved by 2050 is a constructive one. Ultimately however, it is crucial that the quantum of noise in residential areas proximate to the airport that must be reduced.
4. The introduction of a Noise Quota System or noise budget for night-time flying at Dublin Airport between 11pm and 7am, including banning very loud planes from flying at night is welcome. However, I believe it would be inappropriate to change the normal operating hours of the North Runway from the hours 07:00 to 23:00 to 05:59 to 00:00. The restriction of flights on the new north runway between midnight and 6am is positive.
5. Any assumptions about future aviation travel patterns must reflect the State's Climate Action Plan which anticipates an approximate 50% reduction in transport emissions during this decade. Such a reduction is likely to significantly moderate any future aviation growth forecasts produced by the DAA (previously known as the Dublin Airport Authority) or other agencies.
6. The proposal for a new insulation grant of up to €20,000 for residents most affected by night-time noise from Dublin Airport and who have not previously availed of a grant is a welcome development

In summary, while I welcome the increased sophistication relating to the impact of aviation noise on the surrounding communities, I believe that the health impacts of noise must be given far greater weighting. Many thanks for your consideration of my submission, I wish you well in your work.

Sincerely,

Ciarán Cuffe

Ciarán CUFFE, MEP for Dublin

* European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Essen, H., Fiorello, D., El Beyrouthy, K., et al., *Handbook on the external costs of transport : version 2019 – 1.1*, Publications Office, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2832/51388>