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April 8th, 2025

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dail Question No: 250

To ask the Minister for Transport the progress made in identifying potential alternative flight paths for the north runway at Dublin Airport, as committed to at the Oireachtas Committee on Transport on 19 June 2024 (details supplied); the engagements by the Dublin Airport Authority in the process, including with technical experts, agencies and the local community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

Thank you for your query regarding North Runway flight paths. At the Oireachtas Committee meeting, daa referenced issues related to the flight paths and the complexities involved in any review. daa have received proposals from various groups in both North Dublin and East Meath with respect to moving flight paths away from their communities. As highlighted in June, there are a wide range of factors that must be considered in the design of flight paths, and proposals from local groups - which may run contrary to each other - need to be considered in a structured and coherent manner and not in isolation. Nonetheless, we have engaged in discussions with other airports who have undertaken reviews to understand these issues in greater detail. The situation has been made more complex by An Bord Pleanála's (ABP's) public consultation regarding its draft decision on the North Runway Relevant Action application, which closed in December 2024. ABP's final decision in these issues will have important implications for future airport operations and will need to be factored into any future considerations regarding flight paths.

Safety is paramount, which is why engagement needs to also involve airlines and the relevant regulatory authorities to ensure the safety of the millions of passengers travelling to and from Dublin Airport. The team is engaging with relevant agencies to understand the process that will need to be undertaken, taking into account all of the perspectives. This includes considering whether moving the noise elsewhere would yield a benefit in terms of noise reduction for the general population. It is our intention to keep the public updated as we move forward. However, given the complexities as outlined, it will take time to implement a robust process, review options and deliver an outcome.

daa has a mandate to grow Dublin Airport to ensure we maintain adequate connectivity for Ireland to global destinations, however, we know there is also a balance to be struck between this and the needs of those living close to the airport. That is always going to be difficult, but we are constantly working to minimise the impact of our operation, and we will continue to investigate ways in which we can do this. daa has committed up to €50 million towards addressing noise issues through insulation, buy out and community supports.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rebecca Troy'.

Rebecca Troy,
daa plc

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