

Hi,

Please see below submission further to the consultation.

Q1. Transport System User

Q2. Current programme is somewhat effective in supporting regional airports. However, Dublin Airport's growth has been permitted unchecked, and at the expense of Shannon and Cork, under current practices.

Q3. I would like to see Cork and Shannon Airports receive additional support. Their passenger numbers are well below the 3 million passenger EU threshold. This would take pressure off Dublin Airport. Environmental benefits would accrue e.g. from reduced travel to Dublin and reduction of M50/M7 traffic. Rather than expanding Dublin Airport with a costly additional runway and metro high speed public transport links should be developed with Cork and Shannon. More regionally balanced and environmentally sustainable development would ensue.

Q4. I am unaware of metrics currently available to weigh up the environmental affects of multiple journeys to Dublin from the disparate regional airport areas versus a flight carrying multiple users. Alternative transport options are limited and journey times far longer. Car use appears the only other viable alternative with adherent over night stays in Dublin putting additional strain on the Dublin environment. Detailed metrics taking account of total cost, including environmental cost, need to underpin all government policy going forward to ensure Ireland's timely transition to a carbon neutral country.

Q5. The PSO scheme is essential in supporting the rural economies serviced. I am aware of numerous citizens utilising these services for work purposes. To continue to work in these local communities it is essential that day trips to Dublin are facilitated. If local rail transport links were to be significantly upgraded, dramatically reducing travel times, I could see a basis for discontinuing the PSO scheme. The PSO services also provide crucial connectivity internationally as Dublin Airport has been allowed to become the unchecked dominant airport nationally.

Other Comments. I do not see a significant benefit in supporting Waterford Airport considering it's connectivity via the motorway network to Dublin. It is in close proximity to Cork Airport and Rosslare harbour also and is well serviced by public transport.

Kind Regards,

