



Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
By email to rapconsultation@dttas.gov.ie

16th Sept. 2019.

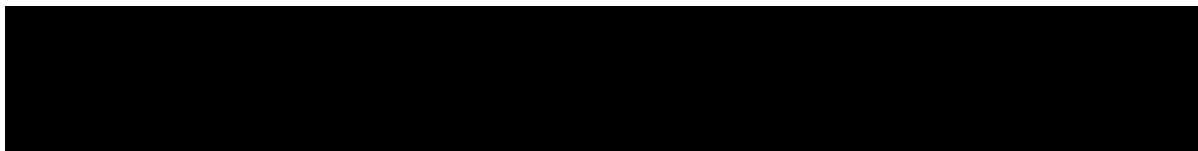
Re: Regional Airports Consultation.

Dear Sirs,

IRD Kiltimagh CLG is a community based organisation working for over 30 years to develop the Kiltimagh area by way of a series of Economic, Environmental and Social programmes all of which are an effort to create employment and economic prosperity in the area so that the coming generations may have the opportunity to live and work in their native area. To put it in context, Kiltimagh is a small rural town of approximately 1,200 people currently with a total of about 4,500 living either in the town or its hinterland. It's located in an area of East Mayo traditionally referred to as the "Black Triangle, so called because of its high unemployment, underemployment and substantial levels of forced outmigration.

Our organisation was formed in an effort to combat the unemployment and outmigration and has implemented a series of programmes and projects to achieve its aims including the following flagship projects (among many others):

- The Cairn International Trade Centre – a €7m state of the art, 34,000 sq. ft. office workspace.
- Enterprise House – 40,000 sq. ft. of Enterprise Centre space catering for all sectors.
- Provision of Indoor and Outdoor Childrens Facilities.
- 34 units of Social Housing accommodating over 80 residents – about 7% of the towns population.
- Town Hall Theatre and Conference Centre.
- Sculpture Park and Trail.
- Various Tidy Towns and Tourism Projects.
- Close collaboration existing and new businesses in the town and area to ensure they reach their potential in terms of employment and profitability.





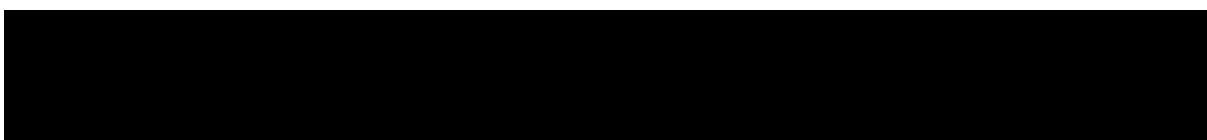
Cairn International Trade Centre, Kiltimagh

In terms of an output from all of this activity, employment figures are as follows:

Location	F/T Jobs	P/T Jobs	Total Jobs
Enterprise House	65	36	101
Cairn Intl. Trade Centre	68	2	70
Ex IRD Workspace Tenant	207	335	542
IRD Supported Businesses in Kiltimagh	68	42	110
Total Jobs	408	415	823

The decision to develop and invest €7m in the Cairn International Trade Centre was based in part on the proximity of our location to Ireland West Airport Knock. To date, projects with about 30 jobs are located in the Cairn International Trade Centre directly as a result of the Airport. The Cairn building currently accommodates about 14 different companies employing around 70 people on site, all of which have the capacity to expand employment significantly in the space they currently occupy.

Additionally, a number of former tenants of IRD owned workspace that started small but have grown to about 100 jobs currently, chose Kiltimagh as their location purely because of Ireland West Airport and our towns proximity to it.



IRD KILTIMAGH CLG. AIDEN STREET, KILTIMAGH, COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND



Our town is lucky to have the benefit of two top class hotels with about 70 bedrooms and this is also largely due to the presence of the Airport. Between them, the hotels would give employment to about 65 people locally.



Park Hotel, Kiltimagh.

We also have current plans (in partnership with Mayo County Council) to develop a unique Velorail Tourism project of the currently disused Western Rail Corridor. We project that this project could attract somewhere of the order of 30,000 visitors per year and we see the Airport as a critical piece of the infrastructure underpinning this project. This project will in itself create about 4 jobs but will contribute greatly to the sustainability of existing jobs in the hospitality sector locally and help extend the tourist season for both local hotels.



Example of a Velorail Project in operation





In summary and for the reasons outlined above and many others, we have found Ireland West Airport Knock to be a key piece of infrastructure which has greatly facilitated our programme to drive employment creation and tourism development locally. In terms of its importance it would rank equally with our Gigabit Fibre Broadband capability in terms of creating employment locally. We recognise the contribution of the Airport to our endeavours, and its potential to contribute even more in the future and therefore we fully support the Airport and advocate that it should receive any support possible to (inter alia):

- Develop its infrastructure and facilities further,
- Develop new routes including transatlantic if possible,
- Attain full capacity on existing routes.
- Market the Airport and the region it serves.
- Other initiatives being implemented by the Airport.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly for any further detail, or elaboration of the above submission.

Yours sincerely,

