

Sirs,

Having read the detailed paper on Issues for Consultation we wish to respond to the questions as they relate to us as members of the Travel Agency Industry from our own and our clients perspective.

Question 1: Travel Agency and Travel Consultancy

Question 2: The schemes are effective based on the numbers as presented. However it is important to read these in the light of current political and economic developments in the UK and in Europe, when thinking of the future.

Question 3: We agree with the continuation of the spending on regional airports to help redress the social imbalance with over one third of the nation's population based in the greater Dublin area. However the associated expenditure must represent real and tangible value for money.

Question 4: Mainly by seeking to support the airport(s) with airlines that operate the most efficient fuel systems. Also encouraging airports to operate low carbon or electric ground handling equipment. Preference should also be given to lower or free car parking spaces for hybrid to EV's.

Question 5: The PSO routes clearly demonstrate an increase in passenger numbers. Greater analyses of the type of traffic needs to be undertaken to better understand the type of travel and impact of each route on the travelling public. In looking to the future one has to consider (a) market demand and (b) the time saving balanced against the increase in the fares without the PSO support.

Additional comments:

One assumes that air passenger numbers will continue to increase annually, we suggest some thought needs to be given to the possibility of a levelling or fall off in numbers with the impending global recession and possible tough brexit.

At all points of the discussion on this programme we think that any available funds must be spent in the most economic way possible and to the maximum benefit of the travelling community.

Yours faithfully

