

PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

NEW REGIONAL AIRPORTS PROGRAMME 2020/2024

Q1: What category of stake holder do you represent?

A1: Hospitality providers in the catchment area of Regional Airports.

Q2: Having regard to the actions on regional airports in the national aviation policy what are your views of the effectiveness of the current regional airports programme?

A2: Over the period of the policy implementation there has been continuous growth in passenger numbers through Regional Airports. This level of activity is key to the survival and growth of tourism in the areas and as such the policy has been effective. Nonetheless, the level of support needs to be enhanced to ensure the viability of the tourist sector in the catchment areas into the future.

Q3: What, if any, changes would you like to see reflected in the new programme and why?

A3: It is necessary to have a multi-annual commitment to both capital expenditure and operation expenditure so that proper planning can be put in place for the short, medium and longer term. This will allow the airports to properly plan for future growth and viability.

Additional Comments:

The passengers moving through these Regional Airports are vital to the survival and growth of all the hospitality providers in the regions. The majority of these use either hotels or bed & breakfasts for accommodation. In addition, they use pubs and restaurants for food, drink and entertainment. The level of spend generated by these tourists is absolutely vital to sustaining the jobs associated with these pubs, hotels and restaurants.

Without a vibrant tourist industry in the catchment area serviced by the airports there will be significant job and businesses losses. These threats, particularly in the context of Brexit demand that a properly resourced, properly planned strategy is put in place for the next five years.

