

FINGAL,  
HOW ARE  
WE  
DOING?



## Fingal Sentiment Report

September 2025





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# Introduction

**Welcome to the report of the third independent research study commissioned by daa.**

Building on the Fingal Sentiment Report published in May 2025, daa have produced a “Pulse”<sup>1</sup> report to continue to gather the views and perspectives of the Fingal constituency regarding the operations and development of Dublin Airport. This report recorded N= 520 responses that align with the CSO prescribed quotas set for age, gender and social class.

The findings from this research will complement feedback gathered through daa’s existing community engagement channels, which include local groups and community leaders.

1. “Pulse” Report refers to a smaller demographic who completed a shorter questionnaire than previous reports, though each demographic equally represents the Fingal constituency based off age, gender and social class.

HELLO



# Objectives

## Assess

Assess attitudes towards Dublin Airport as a neighbour.

## Understand

Understand positive and negative aspects of the relationship between the Fingal constituency and Dublin Airport.

## Examine

Examine how factors affect the Fingal community, for example noise levels.

## Review

Review whether specific residential areas have an influence on these attitudes.

## Sentiment

Determine emotional sentiment towards the airport.

## Impact

Assess the impact and perception of community and environmental initiatives undertaken by Dublin Airport.

The results gathered from the survey reveal the positive role that Dublin Airport plays in the Fingal area, highlighting the symbiotic relationship and strong connection between the two. Of course, the impacts of living close by an international airport are varied, feedback which is reflected in the answers provided by the surveyed constituents.

Our sincere thanks to the people who allowed the survey to take place through being interviewed. Our continued intention is to regularly engage with the people of Fingal, keeping a close eye on community morale and working with intention towards total contentment with Dublin Airport's presence and activity in the area.





# Methodology



## RED C

The survey design, fieldwork and analysis were undertaken by RED C research. RED C was founded in 2003 and has become the fastest growing full-service research company in Ireland and one of the top 120 globally. In 2016, they launched RED C Research UK and in 2023 added Relish Research to the group. RED C are part of the Business Post Group.



## Survey Approach

This research was carried out as a face-to-face interview, by trained Red C interviewers. These interviews were recorded on CAPI tablet devices and interviews were conducted door to door within specified catchment areas. Each interviewer was equipped with a map of the area and comprehensive interviewer instructions giving a breakdown of each question within the questionnaire.



## Selection of Survey Areas

Drawing on 2022 CSO data, interviews were proportionally distributed across the Areas and District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) within the county to ensure the sample was reflective of the population within Fingal County. Quotas were also applied to key demographics — including age, gender, and social grade — in line with the latest CSO figures.



## Setting Sample Size

520 interviews were carried out among adults aged over 18 who are resident in Fingal. Research was completed between the 1st to the 30th September 2025. Again, quota's were set in line with the prescribed CSO figures for the area.



## Electoral Areas

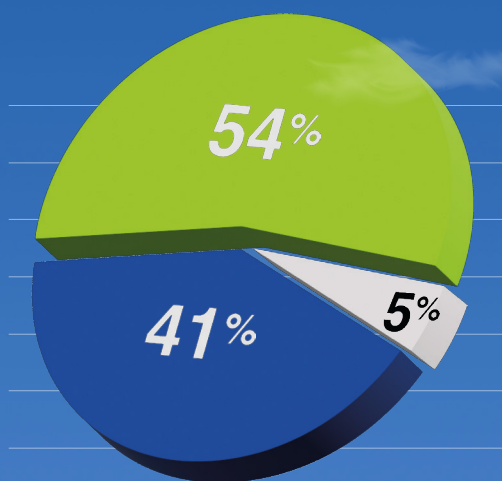
| Balbriggan  | Howth-Malahide   | Rush-Lusk  | Swords   | Blanchardstown, Dubber, The Ward Kilsallaghan   | Castleknock                      |
|---|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Balbriggan (Urban & Rural)<br>Holmpatrick<br>Skerries | Baldoyle<br>Howth<br>Kinsaley<br>Malahide (East & West)<br>Portmarnock (North & South)<br>Sutton | Ballyboghill,<br>Balscadden<br>Clonmethan<br>Garristown<br>Hollywood<br>Donabate<br>Lusk<br>Rush | Airport, Turnapin & Balgriffin<br>Swords (including Forrest, Glasmore, Lissenhall, Seatown, Village) | Blanchardstown, including Delwood and Lucan North<br>Mulhuddart & Tyrrelstown, Roselawn<br>Abbotstown, Blakestown, Coolmine & Corduff<br>Dubber, The Ward<br>Kilsallaghan | Castleknock (Knockmaroon & Park) |



# Sentiment

Sentiment towards Dublin Airport has continued to evolve since May 2025, with a notable shift towards more positive perceptions in the Fingal area. 60% provided the high score of 8-10, a significant positive increase since May 2025 (+6%) while 33% gave the rating of 4-7 and 7% gave the rating of 1-3.

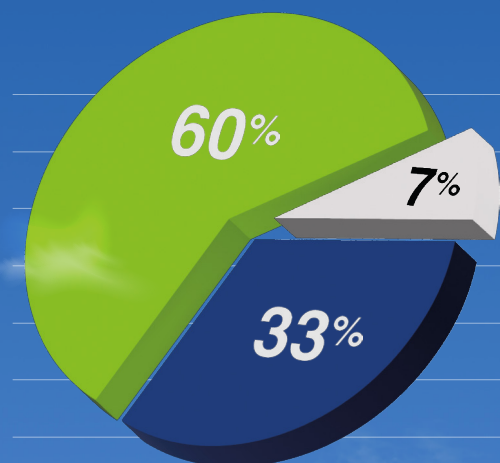
Thinking of Dublin Airport. Using a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very negative and 10 is very positive, how do you feel about Dublin Airport in regard to their impact on your local area?



May 2025



N=1011



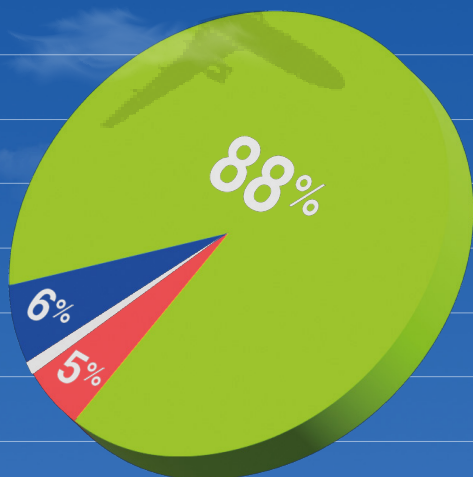
September 2025



N=520



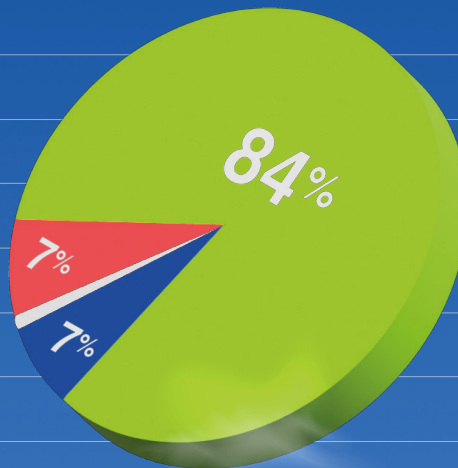
# Dublin Airport's role in the economy



**Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the locality**



N=520



**Having Dublin Airport in the community fuels economic development**



N=520

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

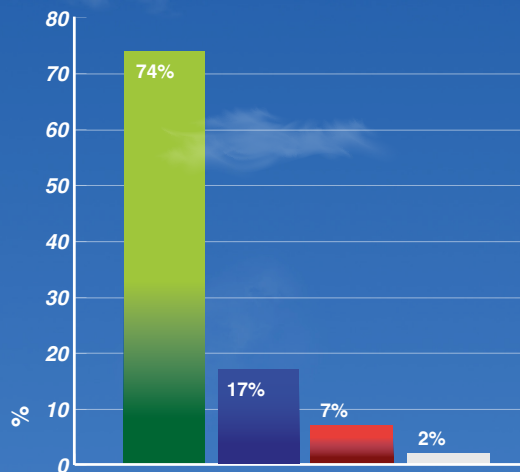
Responses to questions about Dublin Airport's role in the local economy show results which are undisputably positive. Over 80% agree in both cases, displaying the strong sentiment of economic symbiosis between the Fingal community and Dublin Airport. An increase of 3% is seen in view of Dublin Airport contributing to job growth in the locality (88% as of Sept 2025), while economic development remains steady at 84%.



# Dublin Airport's role in the Fingal Community

Beyond the economy, responders remained positive about Dublin Airport's position in the Fingal Community, with over 70% agreeing that Dublin Airport is both a good corporate citizen and that Dublin Airport does more good than harm in the local area.

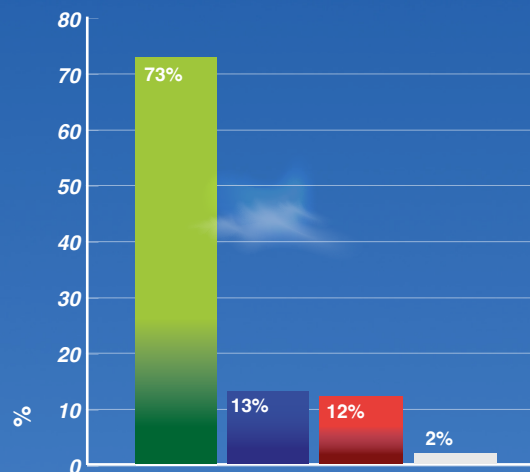
I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.



**More good than harm in the local community - 74% agree**



N=520



**Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen - 73% agree**



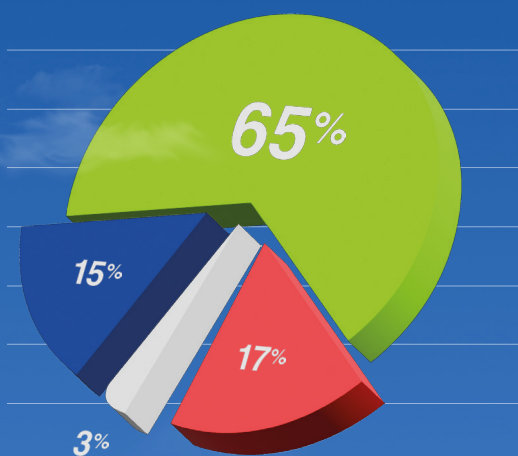
N=520

The portion which disagreed with the statement that Dublin Airport does more good than harm remained the same at 7%, though the amount that believes that Dublin Airport is not a good corporate citizen rose from 7% to 12% between May to September. While the research indicated an increase in the perception that Dublin Airport could do more as a good neighbour, we remain committed to strengthening our community engagement and sustainability initiatives. This is a priority for us, and we will continue to build on the positive progress highlighted elsewhere in the report, including the increased sentiments in County Fingal economic growth and development.



# Dublin Airport as a neighbour

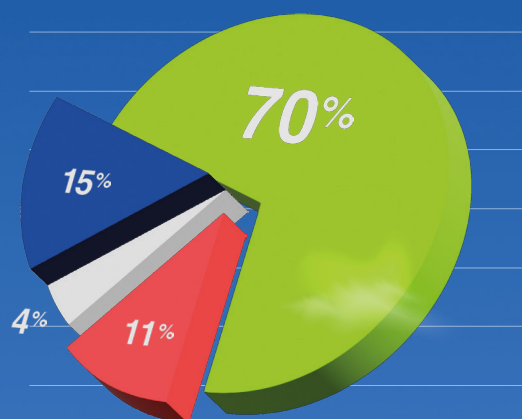
I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.



**On balance Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the local**



N=520



**Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour**



N=520

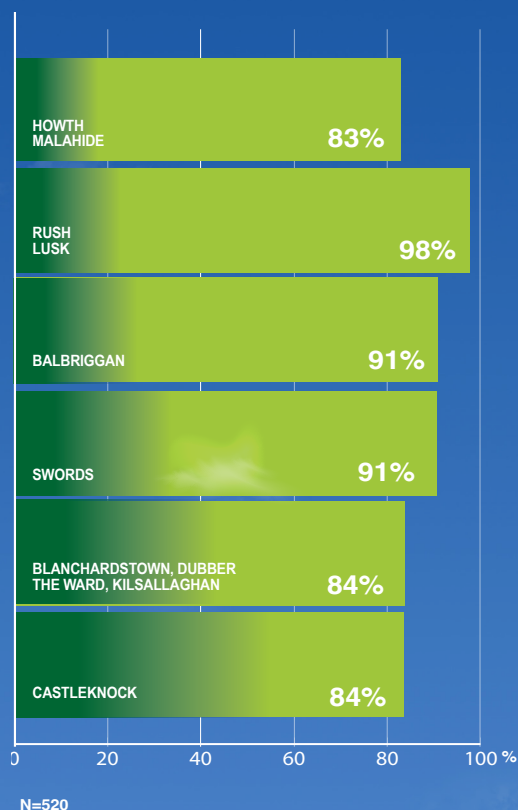
Dublin Airport was given recognition as a trustworthy neighbour by residents of County Fingal, with 70% agreeing with the statement when asked. 65% of those interviewed agreed that Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the area, with similar scores between disagree (17%) and neither agree nor disagree (15%) displaying a level of uncertainty within the local community about the effects of Dublin Airport in the area.



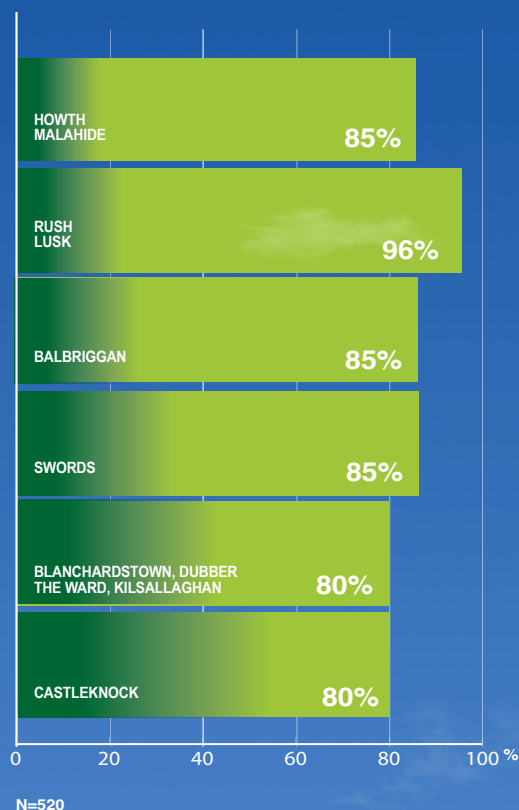


# Detailed results across Fingal

Communities aligned on positive economic impact.



**Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the economy - 88% agree**

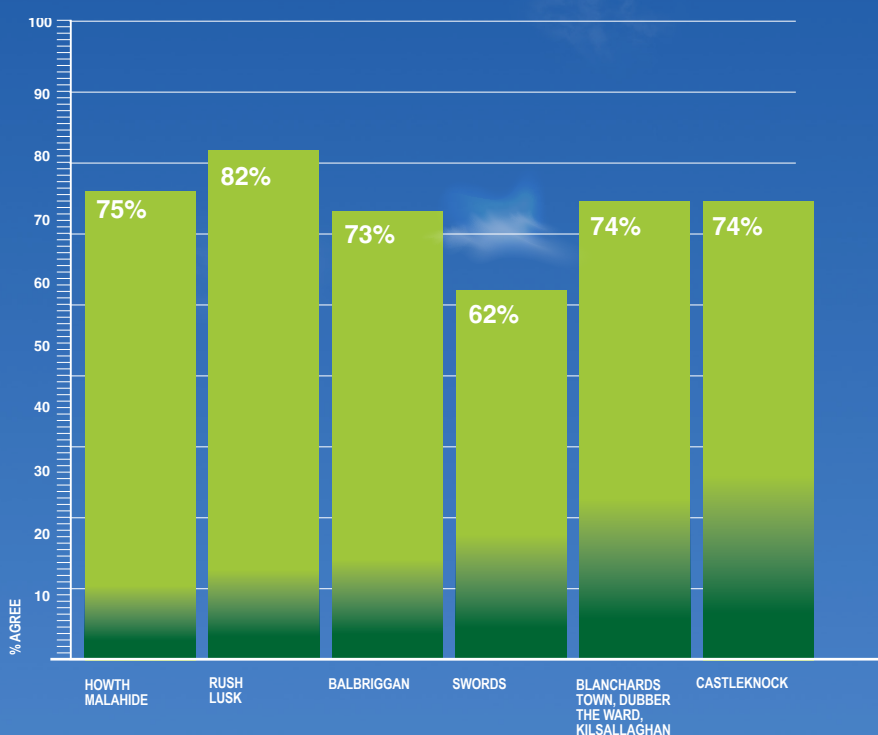


**Having Dublin Airport in our community feels like economic development - 84% agree**

While both questions received an overall positive response, each location had varying percentage of agreement to the questions. It is worth noting that while each location falls under the Fingal County constituency, several factors such as proximity to the airport, access to the airport Community Fund and the impact of noise greatly impact the answers provided from each location. A notable increase can be seen in the answers from Rush-Lusk in September 2025 versus May 2025, at 98% (+11%) agreement that Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the economy, and 96% (+13%) agreement that Dublin Airport fuels economic development.



# COMMUNITY



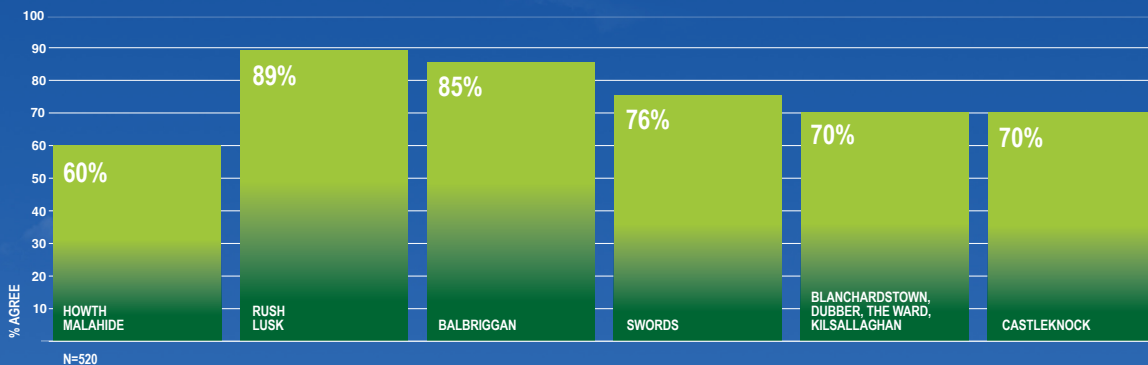
I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

## Sentiment for Dublin Airport as a member of the Fingal Community remains positive - 73% agree

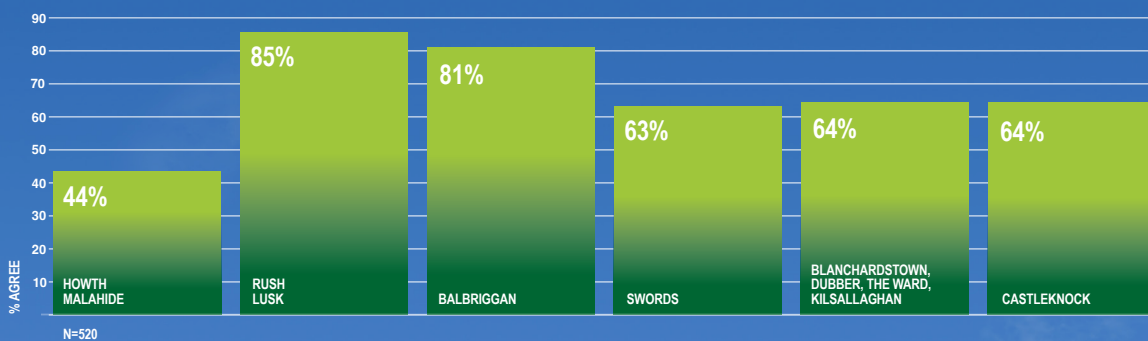
Over 70% of the Fingal community agree that Dublin Airport does more good than harm in the locality. Rush/Lusk saw the highest percentage agreement at 82% (+10% from May 2025), though Swords saw a decrease from May 2025 of (-14%), leaving their area score at 62%.



# There is only slight variation in scores between areas



## Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen - 73% agree overall



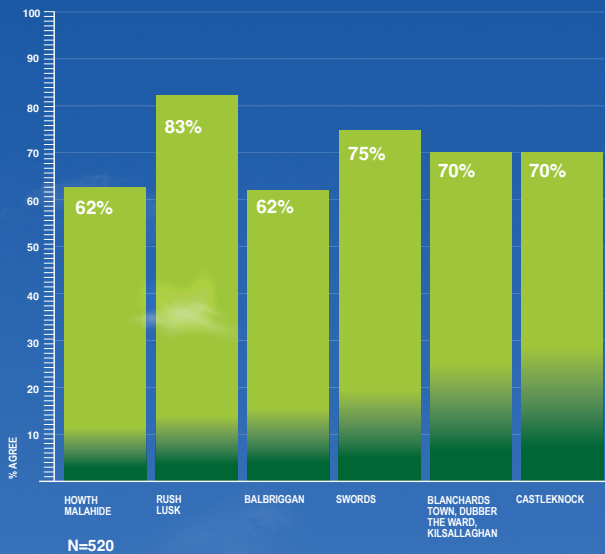
## Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the community - 65% agree overall

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

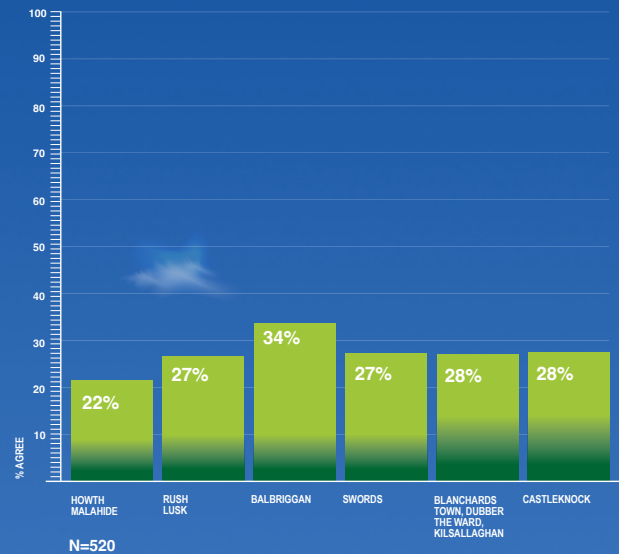
Overall, over 70% of Fingal residents believe that Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen, while over 60% overall believe that Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life within the community. Since May 2025, an additional 26% of residents in Rush/Lusk agree that Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the locality, jumping to 85% in September from 59% in May. An indication for the rise of community sentiment from Rush/Lusk could come from the sponsorship of the Rush Harbour Festival and Fingal Rush Air Display 2025 by Dublin Airport, which took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend.



# Sentiment broken down by area



**Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour**  
- 70% agree



**Dublin Airport does as little as it can for the community**  
- 27% agree

I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement

70% overall agreed with the statement that Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour, with significant increase of positive perception from both Rush/Lusk (+23%) and Blanchardstown/Castleknock (+8%). Perception dropped versus May 2025 by -22% in Balbriggan, falling from 84% to 62%. This brings Balbriggan in line with the average scores for Dublin Airport's perception as a trustworthy neighbour. Those who felt the most strongly that Dublin Airport "does as little as it can" for their community was Balbriggan, at 34%. Overall, Rush/ Lusk saw a decrease in agreement with the statement, falling from 45% in May 2025 to 27% in September 2025.

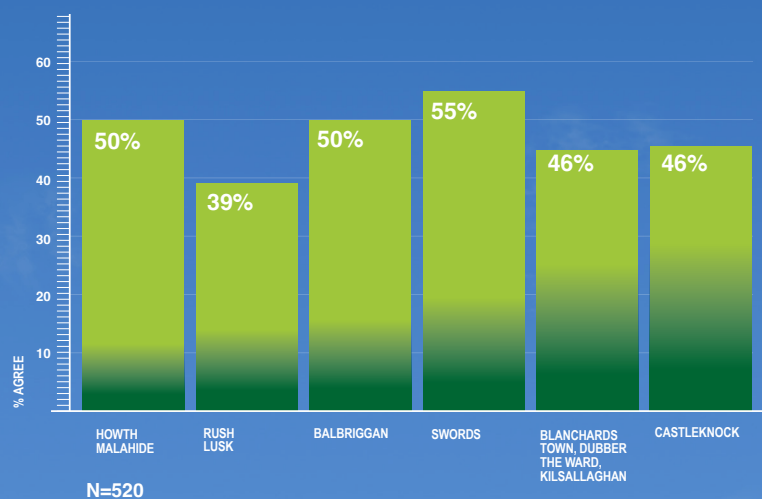


# Communication between Fingal residents and Dublin Airport

Building on previous feedback from prior reports shows an improvement in communication between Dublin Airport and the Fingal community, though open and honest communication remains the area which has the lowest public perception. Small increases can be seen across scores from May 2025 to September 2025, with an increase of (+2%) in honesty when communicating with local leaders and the local community, and an increase of (+4%) in communications with the public about issues affecting the local community.

Close to half (48%) of the respondents agreed that Dublin Airport is open and transparent with the Fingal community, with less than 20% disagreeing with this. There is a very similar distribution of responses for statements regarding honesty in communication with citizens and leaders and responsiveness to community issues or concerns.

Looking at the responses to these statements by area of residence, there are differences in responses depending on location. Residents from Balbriggan, Rush-Lusk and Swords are the most likely to agree with the statements regarding openness and transparency whereas the Howth-Malahide area is the least likely to agree.

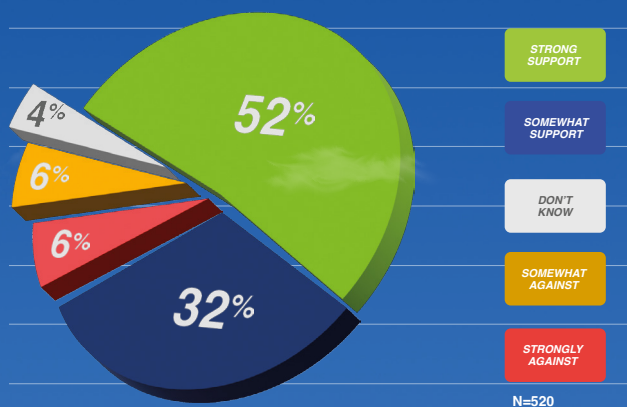


**Dublin Airport is open and transparent with Fingal Community - 48% agree**



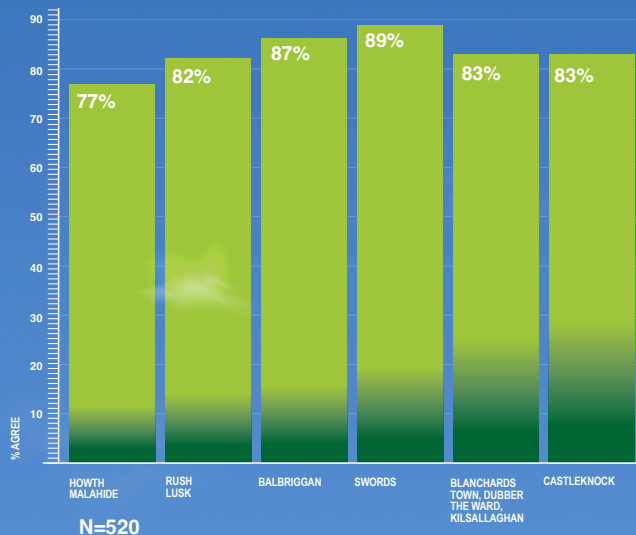


# Public perception of further development in Dublin Airport



There is strong support from the local area regarding further development of Dublin Airport, with an overall positive NET score of 84%. By location, results vary, with a significant drop of support from the Blanchardstown extended area from 90% (May 2025) to 83% (September 2025).

**To what extent do you support or are you against the further development at Dublin Airport?**



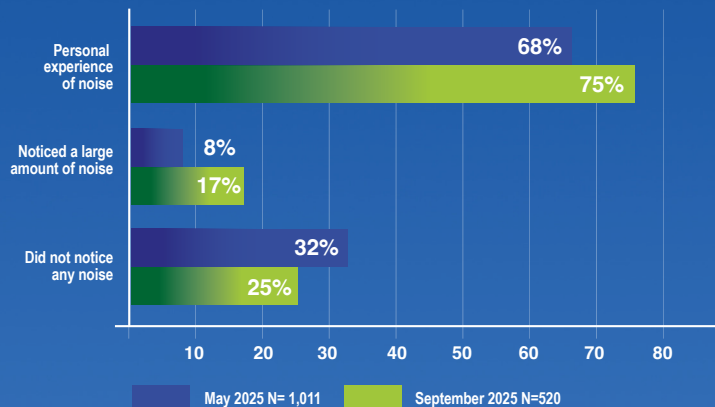
This drop brings Blanchardstown's perception of further development in line with perception from other localities. Swords remained steady, with 89% agreement in both May 2025 and September 2025, while other locations saw minor variations.

**Stance on further development at Dublin Airport by area - 84% agree**

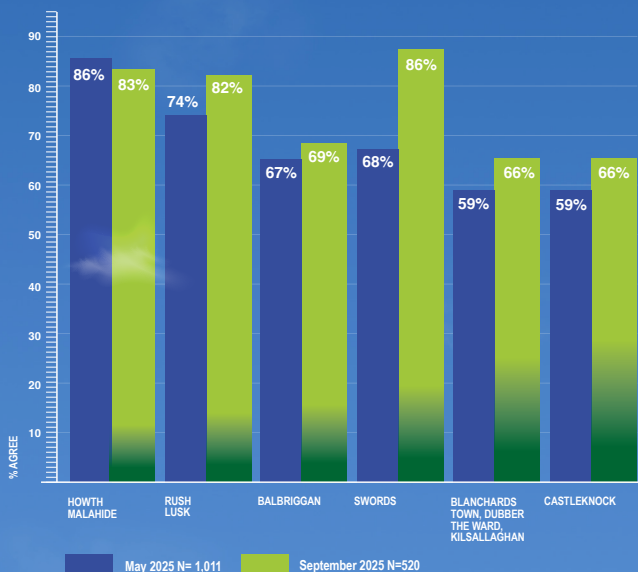


# Research investigated the impact of noise effects

An increase in personal experience of noise is seen from May 2025 to September 2025, jumping from 68% to 75%. A significant jump is seen in measurement of those who noticed a large amount of noise, increasing from 8% in May 2025 to 17% in September 2025. The number of people who did not notice any aircraft noise decreased from 32% (May 2025) to 25% (September 2025).



## Impact of noise overall



## Noise impact by area

The variance in noise impact results in Swords could be attributed to the different noise impact while the North Runway is in departing or arriving operations. When the direction of the wind changes, aircraft use the runways differently at Dublin Airport such as in the first quarter this year, when an increase in easterly winds saw mainly arriving aircraft using North Runway.

Swords recorded the highest level of noise impact in September 2025 at 86%, an increase from 68% in May 2025 (+12%). Howth/Malahide saw a decrease in personal impact of aircraft noise, dropping from 86% (May 2025) to 83% (September 2025). While 75% of Fingal residents reported noticed aircraft noise, 47% noticed noise which was classed as lower impact.

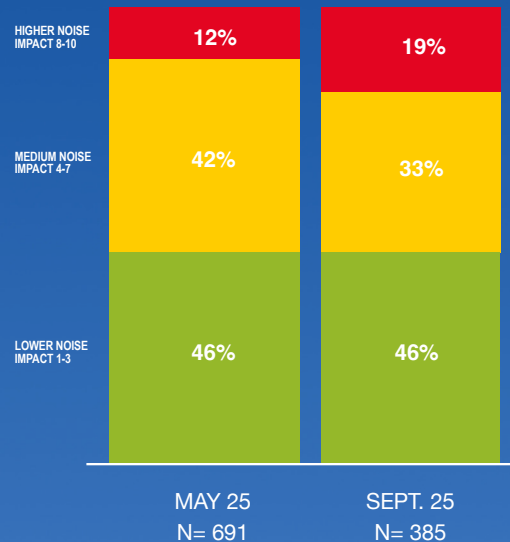


# Noise Effects

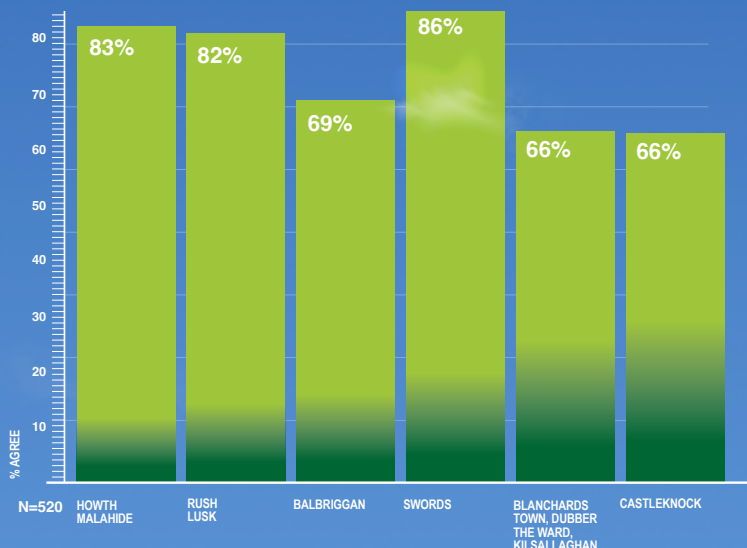
Higher noise impact saw an increase from 12% (May 2025) to 19% (September 2025), reflecting the busy summer season in Dublin Airport and increased number of flights.

While the overall sentiment surrounding Dublin Airport remains at 60% (NET Positive), those who are highly impacted by noise have a lower sentiment at 53% (NET Neutral).

## Fingal residents who noticed any noise



## Fingal residents who noticed any noise - 75% agree



However, it has to be noted that for even those most affected by noise, the majority of Fingal residents remain in support of further development at Dublin Airport. From those residents who are affected by noise, 61% would support further development at Dublin Airport, while 34% would not support further development and 5% remain undecided.



DUBLIN  
AIRPORT  
LIFTS  
US ALL

## Conclusion

Overall, this report demonstrates that residents of Fingal see Dublin Airport as playing a vital role in the economy and community, with strong support for further development. With 84% of Fingal residents supporting further development of Dublin Airport, this is a strong endorsement of our place within the Fingal community, and this endorsement can be further strengthened through consistent transparent communication, and engagement with local Fingal residents.



# Fingal Sentiment Report 2025

