Scoping Process for Proposal to Change Permitted Operations

Maintaining Operational Flexibility at Dublin Airport
Post the Opening of North Runway

Overview of Environmental Impact Statement (‘EIS’)
Scoping Process
The North Runway Project

In December 2004, planning permission was sought for North Runway, a 3,110 metre runway to be built 1.6km north of the existing main runway. Planning consent, subject to 31 planning conditions, was granted in August 2007.

Due to the economic downturn, the project was put on hold. However, the recovery in the economy has seen passenger numbers reach record levels with 25 million passengers travelling through Dublin Airport in 2015 to over 180 destinations worldwide.

Plans for a new runway at Dublin Airport have been included in County Development Plans since the 1970’s. As traffic has grown at Dublin Airport, the need to progress this project has become more important and immediate. Accordingly, the decision to progress the runway was taken in April 2016 and it is expected to be delivered in 2020.

North Runway will create 31,000 jobs and generate an additional €2.2bn for the Irish economy. It will provide the capacity to facilitate strong growth in demand for short haul services to the UK and Europe, it creates the potential to further develop Dublin as a key European gateway to North America and greatly enhances Ireland’s connectivity to the rest of the world by enabling the development of routes to Asia, South America and Africa.

da has previously indicated that two of the existing runway planning conditions impact the airport’s ability to accommodate demand at key operational times.

Dublin Airport is licenced to operate 24 hours a day seven days a week, with no operating restrictions. Once North Runway becomes operational, the conditions attached to the current grant of permission would mean the following restrictions would apply:

- Condition 3(d) of the 2007 planning permission prohibits the use of the new North Runway for landings and take-offs between the hours of 23:00 to 07:00.
- Condition 5 states that, on completion of construction of the new runway, the average number of night time aircraft movements at the airport shall not exceed 65/night (between 23:00 and 07:00).

What is this consultation about?

da is seeking to have the restrictive conditions removed due to the significant negative implications they pose for the potential of the airport to operate, grow and deliver the maximum economic and societal benefit for Fingal, for Dublin and for Ireland as a whole.

Therefore, in parallel with progressing plans to deliver the runway, daa will also be entering into a process to change these onerous planning conditions and to maintain the operational flexibility that currently exists at Dublin Airport. That process will involve the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess any potential impacts arising from those proposed changes. This consultation provides an opportunity to contribute to the content of and approach adopted to the EIS.
What is an EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a study of the impact of a proposed project on the environment. In this case, it is a study of the potential impact on the environment of changing the restrictive conditions (Conditions 3(d) and 5) relating to operation of the runways at Dublin Airport. The EIS, once complete, will form an important part of the process to review these onerous conditions.

The scoping of an EIS is the process of deciding what information should be contained in an EIS and what methods should be used to gather and assess that information.

A draft EIS Scoping Document has been prepared and is available both in print and at www.northrunway.ie. It provides details of the topics that daa intends to consider in the EIS and the approach that will be adopted to considering them.

Stakeholders and the general public now have an opportunity to contribute to the process through this consultation phase and you are invited to share your views on:

- any issues or concerns relating to changes to the restrictive conditions that may be specific to you, your immediate community, area, residence or place of work
- any broader social / environmental topics that should be considered in the EIS
- any other information you feel we should consider

Your feedback is very important as it will influence the scope and approach to the environmental assessment. We encourage your participation and we ask that you bring the consultation opportunity to the attention of other stakeholders in your community.

Once the scope of the study is decided, consultants will begin the task of assessing potential environmental impacts. The outputs from this exercise will be the focus of further stakeholder engagement later this year.

daas proposes to examine the following topics through the EIS:

1. People / population
2. Human Health
3. Hazard
4. Traffic and Transportation
5. Air Quality
6. Climate
7. Aircraft Noise and Vibration
8. Ground Noise and Vibration
9. Landscape and Visual
10. Biodiversity
11. Water
12. Land
13. Soils
14. Material Assets
15. Cultural Heritage
16. Interaction and Cumulative Impact of the above

How to get involved in the process

Members of the public and stakeholders are invited to participate in the scoping process. This allows you to propose the issues of importance to you for inclusion in the assessment of environmental impacts.

Submissions can be made in writing to:  
North Runway Proposal to Change Permitted Operations,  
North Runway Office, Cargo Terminal 1,  
Dublin Airport  
Or by email to northrunway@daa.ie clearly noting ‘Proposal to Change Permitted Operations’ in the subject line.

In order to assist people in preparing responses, Fingal County Council will be requested to have the information available in libraries and civic offices. In addition, copies of all materials are available on the North Runway website www.northrunway.ie

Closing date for receipt of submissions is Friday 22nd July 2016.
In operating an international airport we are conscious that we need to ensure a balance between providing essential infrastructure that our country depends on and minimising the impact on our local communities.

Through the Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum and its more recent format, the Dublin Airport Environmental Working Group, daa has ensured that local communities are well informed about airport operations and our activities in a range of environmental areas.

As part of the ongoing processes relating to North Runway daa is committed to active engagement with local community groups and residents and Fingal County Council to develop solutions to any local concerns.

As part of the North Runway project, we are undertaking a number of additional initiatives to promote engagement, including:

- Hosting public information and consultation events
- Arranging public information displays
- Continuing to operate our Community Liaison team with availability to meet with residents, community groups and other key stakeholders on a one-to-one basis
- Operating a helpline number that is dedicated to responding to queries about North Runway (Freephone: 1800-804422)
- Maintaining a website [www.northrunway.ie] that provides relevant updates on progress being made on the project
- Publishing updates on North Runway to provide information on project progress, delivered to homes in the area
- Providing a clear and timely response to relevant issues raised in correspondence or by email to northrunway@daa.ie.

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