



An tÚdarás Inniúil um  
Thorann Aerárthai

Aircraft Noise  
Competent Authority



**Aircraft Noise Competent Authority**  
Annual Report 2022



2022 was a busy year for ANCA. We continued to inform and engage with our many stakeholders and made additional aircraft noise contours available on our website. ANCA completed a comprehensive aircraft noise impact assessment and defined a noise abatement objective for Dublin Airport, supported by a regulatory decision. We also identified a need for additional noise monitoring systems in communities around the airport, with particular focus on the new runway and four additional noise monitoring systems were commissioned during the year.



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Foreword by Chief Executive of Fingal County Council</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Report of the Director of Services of ANCA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Who we are and what we do</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Management team</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>What we delivered during 2022</b>	<b>8</b>
Aircraft noise regulation	9
Noise measuring systems	9
Provision of information	10
<b>How we delivered our work in 2022</b>	<b>12</b>
How we assess aircraft noise	12
How we monitor aircraft noise	13
A noise abatement objective for Dublin Airport - focused on outcomes	13
Implementing the NAO for Dublin Airport	14
Informing communities	15
Regulating aircraft noise	15
<b>2022 financial summary</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Aircraft noise home insulation programmes</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Engaging and informing our stakeholders</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Looking ahead to 2023</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Contacting ANCA</b>	<b>20</b>

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# Foreword by Chief Executive of Fingal County Council

**During 2022, Dublin Airport activity rebounded following the significant decline in aviation activity that had taken place since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.**



**AnnMarie Farrelly,**  
Chief Executive,  
Fingal County Council

During 2022, Dublin Airport activity rebounded following the significant decline in aviation activity that had taken place since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I acknowledge the work of the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority (ANCA) in holding an extensive public consultation with local communities and other stakeholders, which began in late 2021 and continued until March of 2022.

Following this public consultation, ANCA adopted a Noise Abatement Objective (NAO) for Dublin Airport, which is a framework for the management of aviation noise at the airport.

Essential to the creation of this objective was the input of opinions of the local communities and general public, gathered through a robust public consultation process. I thank all those who participated.

Monitoring of aircraft noise against this objective is a key part of ANCA's role.

This Annual Report outlines how ANCA operates, and provides detail regarding its work during 2022.

ANCA continues to play a vital role in the regulation of aircraft noise. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism of the team and their specialist experts throughout 2022.

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# Report from the Director of Services of ANCA

**I am pleased to present this Annual Report detailing the work of ANCA during 2022. This report details the broad scope of work undertaken by ANCA and presents particular highlights of significant events that took place or were completed during 2022.**



**Ethna Felten,**  
Director of Services, Aircraft Noise  
Competent Authority

Aviation is an integral part of Ireland's economy, but it is essential that aircraft activity takes place in the most sustainable manner possible. To achieve this balance, ANCA defined a Noise Abatement Objective (NAO) for Dublin Airport during 2022. It requires daa - the airport authority for Dublin Airport - to deliver real and measurable reductions in community noise exposure outcomes in the years ahead. The objective was accompanied by regulation to ensure that the benefits will be delivered, maintained, and improved upon year after year.

**During the year we listened to all opinions on how aircraft noise should be managed in the communities around Dublin Airport and responded by making provision for reducing aircraft noise impacts in the years ahead.**

A new runway opened at Dublin Airport in August 2022. In the 15 years since this runway received development consent, several new communities have grown around Dublin Airport. Noise control measures that were appropriate in the past may not be suitable for changed circumstances. It is therefore necessary to review the noise climate regularly, to ensure that the best measures are in place to secure the maximum benefit for all communities that are impacted by aircraft noise.

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**For the first time at Dublin Airport, aircraft noise management has a statutory basis that recognises the interests of the communities in the vicinity of the airport together with the people who use the airport for travel, business, and employment.**

Future plans that seek to develop the airport as a modern piece of national infrastructure will be considered within this statutory framework, and best practices will be applied regarding management of aircraft noise.

In setting the noise abatement management objectives for Dublin Airport, ANCA's noise impact assessment team included national and international experts. Their expertise ensured that the most appropriate and up-to-date methods were examined and applied to manage and reduce the impact of noise on the communities surrounding the airport. ANCA reviewed the measures in place at many other international airports. We incorporated optimum aspects of these into our regulatory decision related to a planning application submitted by daa.

ANCA will continue to prioritise the publishing of information relevant to our work. Our aim is to ensure that reliable and up-to-date data is available to any person, group or organisation that has an interest in the noise impact of aviation activity.

I welcome the addition of more noise measuring systems in new neighbouring communities by daa during 2022. In the coming year, ANCA will continue to engage with daa to ensure that further additional noise measuring systems are installed, and that the associated data is publicly available.

ANCA is committed to continuing to deliver effective and transparent oversight and regulation during 2023.

I also look forward this year to continued engagement with all stakeholders that have an interest in how aviation noise is managed at Dublin Airport.

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# Who we are and what we do

## Overview of ANCA

ANCA was established in 2019 to monitor, and regulate where necessary, for the management of aircraft noise in the communities around Dublin Airport.

Effective aircraft noise management requires participation by many parties, including daa, regulatory authorities, aircraft operators, air navigation service providers and aircraft manufacturers.

Many other stakeholders also have an interest in aviation activity. These include residents living in areas impacted by aircraft noise, individuals / businesses that rely on passenger and freight services, and those employed directly / indirectly through aviation and support services. It is important that the views of this complex and inter-dependent community of stakeholders are ascertained and considered when making decisions that impact aviation activity.

## ANCA's objectives

The regulatory functions of ANCA are established through European and Irish legislation. ANCA's role includes implementation of environmental and planning legislation.

In carrying out our work we:

- **Implement** the statutory functions of ANCA in a transparent and cost-effective manner.
- **Assess** proposals for development at Dublin Airport to ensure that improvements in the noise climate are maintained and improved upon.
- **Monitor** the impact of aircraft noise in the communities around Dublin Airport.
- **Regulate** for the management of aircraft noise in accordance with legislative provisions, including facilitating stakeholder participation.
- **Provide** reliable and up-to-date information on the work of ANCA in a format that is clear and accessible.

# The regulatory functions of ANCA are established through European and Irish legislation. ANCA's role includes implementation of environmental and planning legislation.

## Management team

As an independent directorate, ANCA organises its work through a core team of five engineering, planning and administration staff.

In addition, we engage a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts in areas such as aviation, acoustics, environmental assessment, and legal expertise to support the core team. This flexible operating model ensures that we always have access to specialist national and international expertise. This ensures our decisions are based on sound environmental and technical assessments, and in accordance with legislative requirements.

We also maintain links with universities that carry out research and skills transfer in areas relevant to our work.



Ethna Felten,  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES



Joe Mahon,  
SENIOR NOISE  
TECHNICAL OFFICER



Angela Dullaghan,  
SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER



Siobhan Hogan,  
ADMINISTRATION



Aideen Meagle,  
ADMINISTRATION





# What we delivered during 2022

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During the year we regulated for the management of aircraft noise and made provision for delivering significant noise exposure reductions in the years ahead. We also continued to prioritise access to good quality information for those that need it.

**ANCA commenced the year by publishing the 2021 annual report, which included an overview of the activities expected to be undertaken during 2022.**

During 2022, we continued to provide as much relevant information as possible, while also ensuring that it was accessible to all audiences.

## Aircraft noise regulation

### What we said we would do

In 2021, we said that we would continue the process of aircraft noise regulation at Dublin Airport.

### What we did

ANCA completed a comprehensive aircraft noise impact assessment in June 2022 associated with a planning application at Dublin Airport relating to night-time aircraft operations. Through this process, ANCA defined a noise abatement objective for Dublin Airport that was supported by a regulatory decision. The noise abatement objective establishes the reductions in noise exposure outcomes to be delivered over time. The airport authority must identify and implement measures as necessary to deliver the specific objectives.

## Noise measuring systems

### What we said we would do

In 2021, we said that we would participate in the work of the airport authority to continue to develop online information portals that provide transparent information relating to aircraft noise.

### What we did

ANCA identified a need for additional noise monitoring systems in the communities around Dublin Airport, with particular focus on including monitors related to the new runway. Infrastructure requires time for planning and implementation, and we continued to work with the airport authority during 2022 on an expansion plan to ensure that communities affected by aircraft noise have access to reliable information. Four additional noise monitoring systems were commissioned during 2022 to provide historical and near live data on aircraft noise events in additional communities around Dublin Airport.



## Provision of information

### What we said we would do

In 2021, we said that we would continue to develop the ANCA website to ensure that relevant information is readily and clearly available relating to the noise climate at Dublin Airport.

### What we did

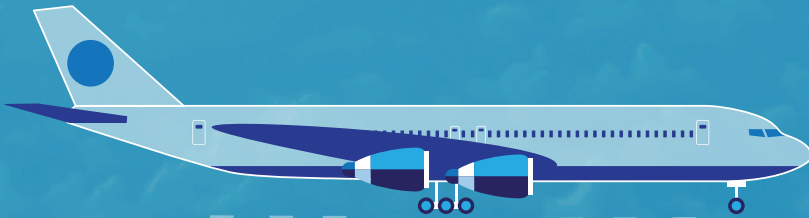
ANCA made additional aircraft noise contours available on the public web viewer on our website for the preceding year to facilitate an examination of how the noise climate changed before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In September, ANCA carried out a review of the effectiveness of the noise mitigation measures in place at Dublin airport during 2021, with reference to the achievement of the noise abatement objective and published our findings.

We also:

- Drew attention to events of particular importance in the news section of our website during the year.
- Continued to make contours available on our website for homeowners to check if they are eligible for home insulation supports.
- Published the daa's annual report detailing compliance with noise mitigation measures in place at the airport.

# 2022 in numbers...



**9** applications for planning permission examined by ANCA for potential aircraft noise impact



**1,382** individuals, businesses and community groups participated in ANCA's public consultation on the noise impact assessment for Dublin Airport



**152** engagements with residents seeking information relating to aircraft noise or access to home insulation measures

**57%** increase in noise monitoring systems in communities around Dublin Airport during 2022

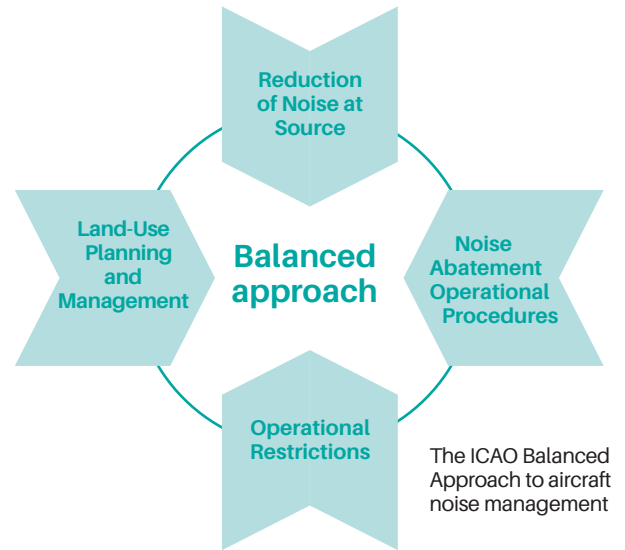


**7** noise monitoring systems at start of 2022

**11** noise monitoring systems at end 2022



# How we delivered our work in 2022



ANCA implements its role through three primary process structures:

**Assessment**

**Monitoring**

**Regulation**

## How we assess aircraft noise

All applications for development at Dublin Airport are examined by ANCA for potential aircraft noise impacts that may require detailed noise assessment and the implementation of additional control measures. Applications that require consideration for new noise mitigation measures will undergo a full noise assessment that involves the application of an internationally agreed process known as the balanced approach.

ANCA attends pre-planning meetings between applicants for development at Dublin Airport and the planning authority to ensure that measures to manage aircraft noise emissions are an integral part of all project designs. These meetings are a formal process that are

Examples of the elements of the balanced approach:

### Reduction of noise at source

Technology improvements that contribute to the use of quieter aircraft

### Land use planning and management

Proactive management of noise through appropriate development policies and controls.

### Noise abatement operational procedures

- Preferential runway use
- Aircraft arrival and departure procedures

### Operational restrictions

- Time related airport curfews
- Runway access restrictions
- Restrictions on specific aircraft types
- Aircraft movement limits

governed by planning legislation and the meeting minutes are published on the website of the planning authority if the project proposals progress into an application for permission for development.

During 2022, ANCA examined nine planning applications to ascertain whether they contained aspects that require a full noise assessment. These applications are listed on the ANCA website.



## How we monitor aircraft noise

ANCA has a mandate to monitor the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures that are in place at Dublin Airport. Noise mitigation is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of noise management interventions. Dublin Airport has a range of noise mitigating measures and operating restrictions in place to manage both localised and overall impact of aircraft noise. The highest level of measures are those that restrict the access of aircraft to an airport. These are known as operating restrictions.

On an annual basis, the airport authority must prepare a report on the performance of airport users with noise management measures in place at Dublin Airport. This report is published on the ANCA website each year. Any supplementary information requested by ANCA is also published.

## A noise abatement objective for Dublin Airport - focused on outcomes

### A noise management plan for Dublin Airport

During 2022, through an extensive process of noise impact assessment and public consultation, ANCA defined a plan for the management of aircraft noise at and around Dublin Airport for the years ahead. This plan is known as a **noise abatement objective** (NAO). It differs significantly from earlier noise management plans and proposals for the airport in that it provides for specific, timebound and measurable reductions in noise exposure outcomes in the communities around the airport. The objective is long term in nature and will require the airport authority to identify and implement best practice in aircraft noise management.

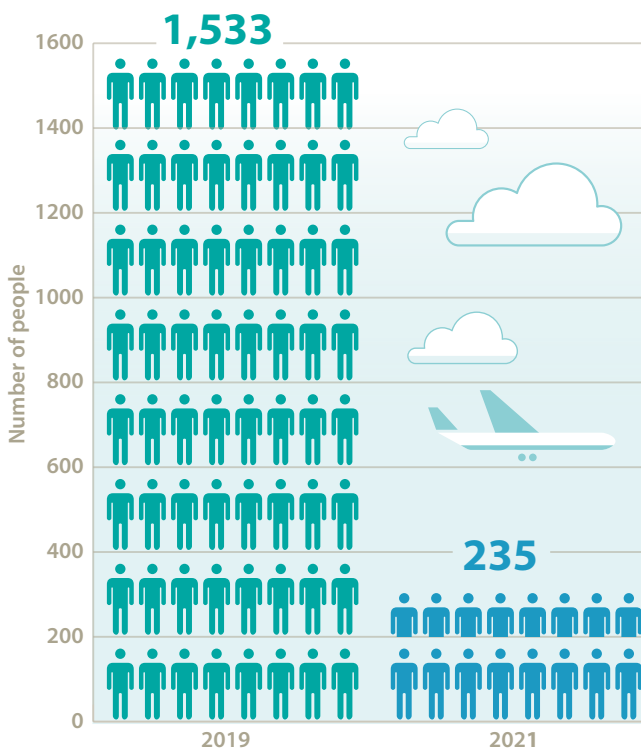
As an island nation, aviation is an integral part of Ireland's economy, and this activity must be balanced with environmental impact improvements. Aircraft technology may not yet have advanced to the stage that will facilitate the desired reductions in noise exposure in the immediate future. The existence of a plan to progress the desired outcomes is an incentive to the noise impact reduction process.

The NAO for Dublin Airport can be viewed and downloaded from the ANCA website at: [www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca/noise-abatement-objective](http://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca/noise-abatement-objective).

# The noise abatement objective (NAO) for Dublin Airport is the plan for the longterm management of aircraft noise at and around Dublin Airport and is focused on outcomes

## Implementing the NAO for Dublin Airport

All proposals for development at the airport will now be examined against the NAO to ensure that sustainable aircraft noise exposure reductions can be progressively achieved and maintained. In addition to the examination of planning applications against the required outcomes of the NAO, ANCA will also carry out an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the noise mitigation measures in place at the airport in achieving the



The number of people exposed to aircraft noise above 55dB L<sub>night</sub>

**1,298**  
Reduction in the number of people in noise exposure level >55dB L<sub>night</sub> between 2019 and 2021



**85%**  
% of reduction of people in noise exposure level >55dB L<sub>night</sub> between 2019 and 2021



objectives of the NAO. This process is intended to identify any necessary interventions at the earliest possible opportunity should there be a concern that the outcomes of the NAO will not be met. The first review of this type took place during 2022 and was published on the ANCA website

The most recent assessment compared the full operational year of 2021 to pre-pandemic activity during 2019. Although worldwide aviation during 2021 was still significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, this process when carried out on an annual basis will show the evolution of the noise climate at Dublin Airport and facilitate early intervention where necessary.



## Informing communities

ANCA supports the requirement for individuals to be able to make informed decisions. This is best achieved when information is available, explaining the complex issues associated with noise impacts. ANCA continued to provide community noise information by publishing noise exposure contours for the full 2021 annual period on our website. The contours were prepared in accordance with environmental noise legislation requirements for the night-time and the 24-hour period. The ANCA website provides information on how aircraft noise impacts are presented for Dublin Airport and what the relevance is for the measurement periods utilised in ANCA assessments.

## Regulating aircraft noise

In June 2022, ANCA made a regulatory decision that followed an assessment of a planning application to amend conditions contained within the original planning consent for the north runway at Dublin Airport.

The process of technical and environmental assessment of this application began in December 2020 and continued until November 2021.

## Public consultation

After the technical and environmental assessments were completed, a public participation process commenced on the draft proposals for noise mitigation. The public consultation continued until March 2022 to enable all interested parties to engage and make a submission to inform the regulatory decision. During this time, ANCA hosted interactive online public information sessions to help in understanding the technical content of the draft decisions and supporting reports. The public meetings were offered online to reach the widest audience possible within government health guidelines at the time.

ANCA also facilitated in-person meetings with interested individuals and community groups at our office in Swords.

There was significant participation in this process and more than 1,300 submissions were made to ANCA. During the period from March to June, all submissions were considered for input into the regulatory decision.

## Regulatory decision

This regulatory decision was incorporated into the grant of permission by the planning authority on this application. This contained provision for the insulation of bedrooms, a prohibition on the noisiest aircraft using the airport at night and a limit on night time aircraft noise. This decision is currently under appeal to the planning appeals authority, An Bord Pleanála.







# 2022 financial summary

Aviation is a highly regulated industry that requires of a wide range of expertise in aviation acoustics, airspace management and environmental impact assessment. ANCA fulfils its mandate to operate in a cost-effective manner by retaining a core operational team, supported by national and international expertise at times and durations relevant to our work.

The budget headings of ANCA are presented below for the 2022 financial year.

The funding model of ANCA is prescribed by legislation which requires that the operating costs of ANCA are recouped from the airport authority on an annual basis.

ANCA Budget	
 Office overheads	<b>€260,000</b>
 Staff costs	<b>€419,344</b>
 Operating costs	<b>€22,382</b>
 Specialist external support services	<b>€456,007</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>€1,157,733</b>

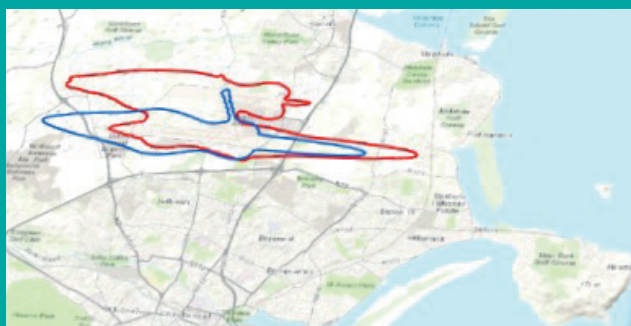
# Aircraft noise home insulation programmes

There are two aircraft noise insulation programmes in place at present for homes in the communities most affected by aircraft noise around Dublin Airport.

Eligibility for access to both schemes is based on homes that are located within specific noise exposure contours. Both schemes can be inspected on the ANCA website.

ANCA made provision for a third insulation scheme during 2022 in a regulatory decision arising from a planning application by the airport authority relating to night-time use of the airport. The decision of the planning authority, that contains the regulatory decision, has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála and this third scheme is dependent on the outcome of that appeals process.

Planning conditions provide for regular review of the eligibility contours. Homes not currently eligible for insulation measures may become eligible if the pattern or nature of the aircraft noise environment changes. daa manages and implements the insulation schemes and contacts all eligible property owners to design measures that are appropriate for each property and to subsequently schedule these works. Enquiries relating to access to home insulation programmes should be made to the airport authority in the first instance.



ANCA assists homeowners located within the relevant noise contours that are unable to progress a valid application with the airport authority.

For more information visit [www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca](http://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca)

**ANCA is the independent authority for monitoring and regulating aircraft noise in the communities around Dublin Airport**

# Engaging and informing our stakeholders

**Our website, [www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoisecca](http://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoisecca), is the primary channel for sharing information about ANCA's work.**

News, publications, and events of particular note are highlighted in the web news section, and on our Twitter account @aircraftnoisecca.

Where ANCA proposes to regulate for the management of aircraft noise, stakeholders are invited to participate in a consultation process prior to regulation taking place.

The ANCA team also engages directly with interested parties through email and meetings.

## ANCA website

Our website is the primary location of information relevant to the work of ANCA.

Aviation and acoustics are specialised disciplines that utilise terminology that can be difficult to present in a manner that is relevant to both to technical and non-technical audiences. Our priorities include making information available in a timely manner and accessible to all.

The figure below highlights information that is available on our website: [www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoisecca](http://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoisecca).



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# Looking ahead to 2023

- During 2023, we will continue to work with the daa on expanding the **network of noise monitoring systems** into additional communities around Dublin Airport. It is a priority of ANCA to ensure that good quality noise exposure information is available to any interested person or organisation.
- ANCA will carry out an **assessment of the aircraft noise impact of Dublin Airport** operating in three-runway format to ascertain whether additional noise management measures are necessary.
- ANCA will continue to **publish annual noise exposure contours on our website**, in order to inform an understanding of the evolving noise impact on the communities around Dublin Airport.
- We will **review compliance** with measures currently place to manage the impact of aircraft noise at Dublin Airport, and these will be published for the full 2022 calendar year.
- ANCA will **monitor the effectiveness of the noise mitigation measures** in place at the Airport to ensure that the noise abatement objective is achieved. The outcome of this review will be published.
- During 2023, ANCA will **continue to utilise and develop our website** as the primary source of information in a format that will have content relevant to a wide cross-section of readers.

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# Contacting ANCA

## Post

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Fingal County Council  
County Hall  
Main Street  
Swords  
County Dublin  
K67 X8Y2

## Email

[aircraftnoiseca@fingal.ie](mailto:aircraftnoiseca@fingal.ie)

## Telephone

01 890 5998

## Our Promise

ANCA is committed to delivering the highest possible quality of service to everyone that contacts us. Our team will engage with all in a professional, fair and transparent manner.

It is our policy to acknowledge all correspondence within three working days, and to respond in full within 15 working days where an investigation is necessary.

The management of aircraft noise comes within the remit of several organisations and authorities and ANCA will identify the authority best placed to respond to representations that do not come within our remit.

## Compliance Statement

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 3(9)(c) of the Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Act 2019.

February 2023



**An tÚdarás Inniúil um  
Thorann Aerárthaí**

**Aircraft Noise  
Competent Authority**

**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council

