

Annual Report 2023

Aircraft Noise Competent Authority



An tÚdarás Inniúil um
Thorann Aerárthaí
Aircraft Noise
Competent Authority

www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseqa



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Foreword from the Chief Executive, Fingal County Council

This is the fifth annual report of the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority. There have been a lot of changes in the aviation industry since ANCA was established, including a return to strong economic growth following the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aviation is a significant part of our social and business lives and I recognise that there are both positive and negative aspects to aviation activity. ANCA seeks to achieve the best balance between reducing the impacts of aircraft noise on public health and the benefits that Dublin Airport brings to Ireland's citizens, businesses, and visitors.

ANCA plays an important part in ensuring that the noise impact at Dublin Airport is managed in the most sustainable way possible. The management of aircraft noise is an ongoing and iterative process. Therefore, it is vital that the noise climate, and the measures in place to manage it, are regularly assessed. When new measures are required, ANCA consults with stakeholders and ensures that all viewpoints are considered.

I wish to thank the ANCA management team and their technical specialists for their ongoing work to ensure that the identification and implementation of best practice in noise management continues to be at the centre of all decisions taken.



AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive
Fingal County Council



Introduction from the Director of ANCA

I am pleased to present the diverse range of activities carried out by ANCA during 2023. This annual report details how the strategy of the authority is aligned to deliver our services in an impartial and transparent manner. In delivering our remit we recognise the viewpoints and aspirations of everybody who benefits from or is impacted by aviation activity at Dublin Airport, including airport users and neighbours.

In 2023, we remained focused on the delivery of reliable community-orientated information, for which the ANCA website is our primary public interface. Additional functionality and information was added to the website during the year, and all significant future updates on ANCA's work will be added, as they occur.

We progressed the work that commenced in 2020 regarding the improvement, by daa, of the aircraft noise monitors that are strategically located around Dublin Airport. The programme, when completed during 2024, will be an informative community resource where information can be obtained on individual aircraft events. I believe that we can further improve on these services to ensure that everyone has access to information that is relevant to their needs.

This report also provides an overview of activities that are likely to be progressed in 2024.

I look forward to our ongoing work with everyone that has an interest in how aircraft noise is managed at Dublin Airport to ensure that improvements in the noise climate can be maintained and improved upon.



Ethna Felten
Director of Services
Aircraft Noise Competent Authority



01

Introduction to the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority

Who we are

The Aircraft Noise Competent Authority (ANCA) is the independent regulator for the management of aircraft noise at and around Dublin Airport. It was established in 2019 to monitor, and regulate where necessary, for the management of aircraft noise in the communities around Dublin Airport.

The need for ANCA

All European Union airports with more than 50,000 civil aviation aircraft movements per year must be regulated for the purposes of noise management. At present, Dublin Airport is the only airport in the Republic of Ireland that meets this threshold.

What we do

ANCA assesses the noise impact of aviation activity in the communities around Dublin Airport. We publish the outcomes of these noise assessments in an impartial manner, that is accessible to all stakeholders including individuals and communities. ANCA established a Noise Abatement Objective (NAO) in 2022 that set targets for Dublin Airport to reduce the impact of aircraft noise.

Effective aircraft noise management requires participation by many organisations, including the airport authority, regulatory authorities, aircraft operators, air navigation service providers and aircraft manufacturers.

Our mission

ANCA's mission is to ensure that the impact of aircraft noise at Dublin Airport and the surrounding neighbourhoods, is analysed, communicated, managed and reduced over time.

Our objectives

ANCA's statutory functions are established by European and Irish legislation to ensure that aircraft noise is managed in a consistent manner across the European Union. In implementing our functions, we

- Transparently implement relevant legislation.
- 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 the authority in a format that is clear and accessible.



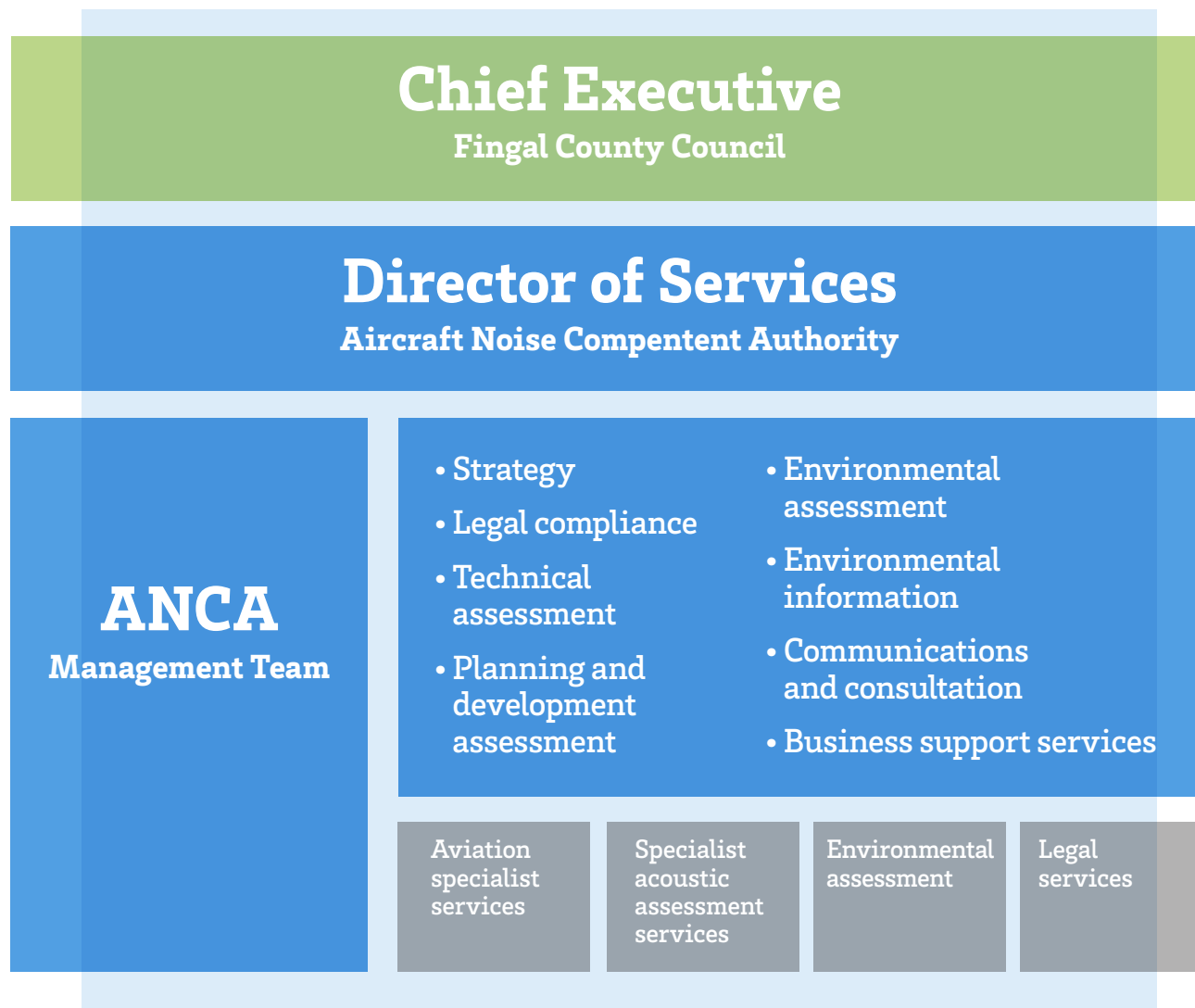
How we deliver our work

The work of ANCA is delivered in a structured manner to coordinate all of our services.

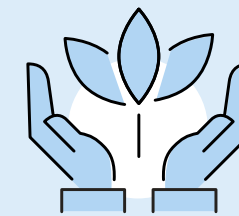
- We undertake assessments of both changes and proposed changes to the noise climate at the airport to determine its impact, or potential impact, on our environment. The outcome of these noise assessments may result in regulation for new noise management measures.
- We recognise that there are many viewpoints on how aviation noise should be managed. In carrying out our work, ANCA consults stakeholders including communities, on any proposed measures to manage aircraft noise.
- Our objective is to ensure our assessments have regard to all aspects of aviation activity that have the potential to impact aircraft noise around Dublin Airport.
- We seek to ensure that aviation impacts are limited and reduced as far as is sustainable.

ANCA management team and structures

Legislation designates Fingal County Council as the competent authority for the purposes of aircraft noise regulation at Dublin Airport.. The functions are implemented by the Chief Executive and designated staff. For this purpose, ANCA is a separate and impartial directorate within the overall structure of Fingal County Council. ANCA is independent in the performance of its function and its management team operates the authority in a cost-effective manner with the support of external aviation specialists, as required.



The work of the authority is aligned with the strategic themes of the Fingal Corporate Plan that was developed through a process of consultation with elected members of the council, staff, community groups, business groups, citizens organisations and other stakeholders. The priorities are centred around these principles.



Quality of life



Quality and climate resilient environment



Quality business environment



Quality in our work

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How aircraft noise is managed

Internationally

Aviation activity is coordinated at an international level by the International Civil Aviation Organization - a specialised division of the United Nations. Policy is agreed between participating countries and given legal effect through legislation by the European Commission.

Nationally

Irish legislation implements or gives additional effect to European Union directives and regulations.

Irish legislation provides for the management of general and aviation-specific environmental noise, particularly in the context of the Irish planning and development processes.

Locally

Every airport has unique characteristics. These attributes include size, proximity to population or the mix of aircraft fleet associated with an airport. The number of airports servicing a city is also relevant as aviation activity can be coordinated by time or location to obtain the best overall solution for a particular city or region. It is important that noise mitigation measures are kept under regular review to ensure that they remain relevant as circumstances change. Measures to manage noise must therefore be implemented on an airport-by-airport basis and reviewed regularly to ensure that the best outcomes can be obtained by tailoring best practice to the circumstances that arise at each location. Airport-specific objectives should be established to manage and measure the evolution of noise climate in local communities.



Joe Mahon, Senior Noise Technical Officer, ANCA

Aviation noise management combines the technical expertise of a wide variety of professionals to ensure that an effective balance is achieved between the genuine and often diverse expectations of people that live near, use or indirectly benefit from aviation activity. Some solutions take time to implement, and it is not always possible or appropriate to make short-term interventions that are not evidence based or fully evaluated.

During 2023, the noise climate around Dublin Airport continued to change. Several planning processes also remain underway that will have an impact on the operation and noise impact of the airport. The combined outcomes of these processes will be assessed and incorporated into an overall noise

management framework. This framework can only be developed with full stakeholder participation to ensure that there is genuine confidence in a shared understanding of how the airport will operate in the years ahead.

To inform this process, ANCA provides reliable noise impact information through interactive maps on our website that show how the noise climate has evolved at Dublin Airport since the authority was established in 2019. It is possible to examine the noise impact for various periods of the day at the level of individual homes, business and recreational open space areas. Eligibility contours are also available for the home insulation and property purchase schemes in place at the airport. I look forward to adding additional data and functionality to this resource over time to ensure that the information needs of the communities around the airport are addressed.

How noise management measures are implemented

In the context of Dublin Airport, measures to manage the impact of aircraft noise may be delivered through mitigation that is:



Introduced directly by the **airport authority**



Prescribed by **planning conditions** to mitigate the impact of development proposals



Developed by aircraft **manufacturers**



Prescribed through **regulation** by **ANCA**



Implemented by aircraft **operators**

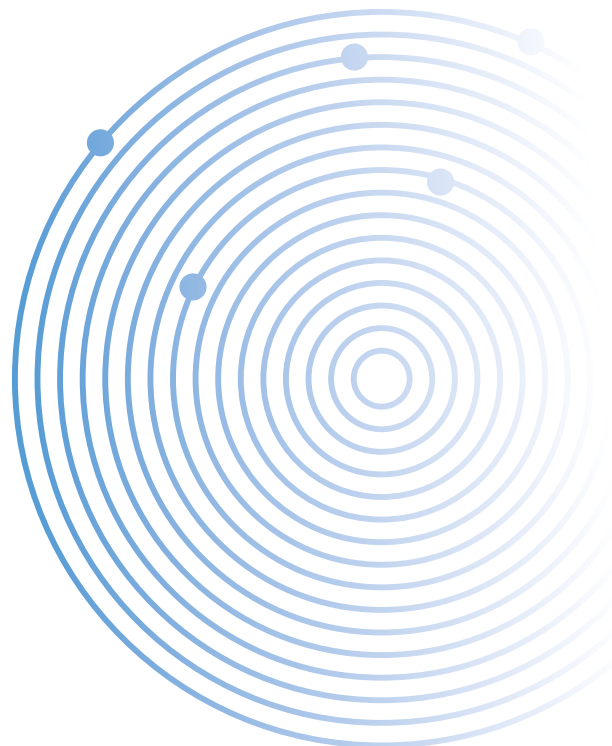


Identified and implemented through the **Noise Action Planning** process

Noise mitigation measures may target localised activity or the impact of the airport operating in its entirety.

The ANCA website contains details of the specific noise management measures in place at Dublin Airport with annual compliance reports related to their effectiveness.

Effective aircraft noise management requires the participation of a number of different organisations to ensure all viewpoints are shared and considered in relation to both the benefits of aviation activity and the negative impacts of an airport's operations.



The highest tier of noise management are those measures that restrict aircraft access to an airport. These are called operating restrictions. These measures may be airport wide or localised, be time bound or target aircraft based on their noise performance.


Operating restrictions have significant social and economic impacts. As a result, they are only introduced as a measure of last resort after a significant period of technical analysis and stakeholder participation determines that no less restrictive measures are available that would deliver an equally effective outcome.

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The work of ANCA during 2023

During 2023 we continued to actively engage with communities affected by aircraft noise and prioritised the availability of relevant and accessible information.

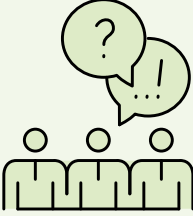
We are committed to explaining what we do, and how it fits within the overall structure of aviation and development management at Dublin Airport. ANCA provides information through a variety of communication channels. We also assist anyone that contacts ANCA to identify who is the relevant authority for them to engage with, where their issues do not come within our remit.



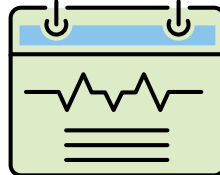
435+ requests for information addressed relating to the management of aircraft noise in the community.



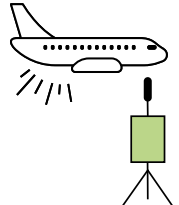
Worked with residents and the airport authority to ensure there is a clear understanding of the eligibility to home sound insulation through existing schemes.



Met with individuals and community groups to hear their experiences of aircraft noise first-hand and consider how ANCA might assist through the work of the authority.



Published annual noise exposure contours for the full preceding year, that facilitate an examination of how the noise climate changes from year to year.



Continued to work with the airport authority on the delivery of additional noise monitors in the communities around the airport. ANCA recognises that aircraft noise can have a negative impact on people over a wide area and addressed the requirements for reliable information through a programme that will ensure that a significant number of noise data points will be publicly available around the airport.



Reviewed and published the report of the airport authority on compliance with noise mitigation measures in place at Dublin Airport.



Reviewed the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures at Dublin Airport and published a report on our findings.



ANCA has worked with the airport authority to install additional noise monitors to ensure that information is available about individual aircraft at various distances and altitudes over a representative number of communities around the airport.

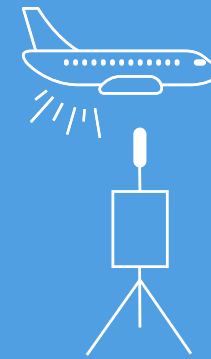
The noise climate around Dublin Airport continued to change during 2023. Some departure routes were changed and the level of aircraft activity increased as the year progressed. ANCA continuously monitors the impact of these changes and publishes relevant information and updates on our website.

The process of assessment will have regard to the decisions of other regulatory bodies that are relevant to our work.

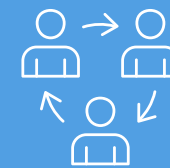
The ANCA website contains details of the specific noise management measures in place at Dublin Airport with annual compliance reports related to their effectiveness.

Effective aircraft noise management requires the participation of a diverse array of organisations to ensure that all viewpoints are shared and considered in relation to both the benefits of aviation activity and the negative impacts of an airport's operations.

2023 numbers at a glance



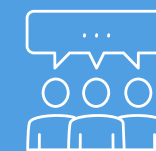
8 new noise monitors commissioned in 2023, a 73% increase – now 19 in situ



16 pre-planning consultations undertaken



15 planning applications referred to ANCA by the planning authority



Managed 435+ requests for information

ANCA and the planning process

ANCA assesses every planning application for development at Dublin Airport to determine whether new or amended noise management measures need to be provided to ensure that the noise impacts of aviation are managed in the most sustainable way possible.

The planning staff of the authority attend statutory pre-planning sessions hosted by the planning authority to raise awareness of the impact of aircraft noise and ensure that appropriate measures to avoid or mitigate the impact are integrated into all development proposals at Dublin Airport.

Before a regulatory decision is incorporated into a final planning determination, if an assessment indicates that new measures are necessary to manage the impact of aircraft noise at Dublin Airport, a draft regulation is prepared by ANCA and public participation is invited on the proposed measures.



Angela Dullaghan
Planning and Environment
Lead, ANCA



"I am a professional planner with specialist expertise in environmental assessment and heritage properties. These areas of expertise give me particular insight into how aircraft noise can have an impact across all aspects of the built and natural environment. My role requires careful consideration of all development proposals for Dublin Airport to ensure that it will be carried out in a way that provides for any aircraft noise impacts to be managed in accordance with noise management objectives set out for the airport and aligned with national and regional policy".

How aircraft noise is quantified and presented

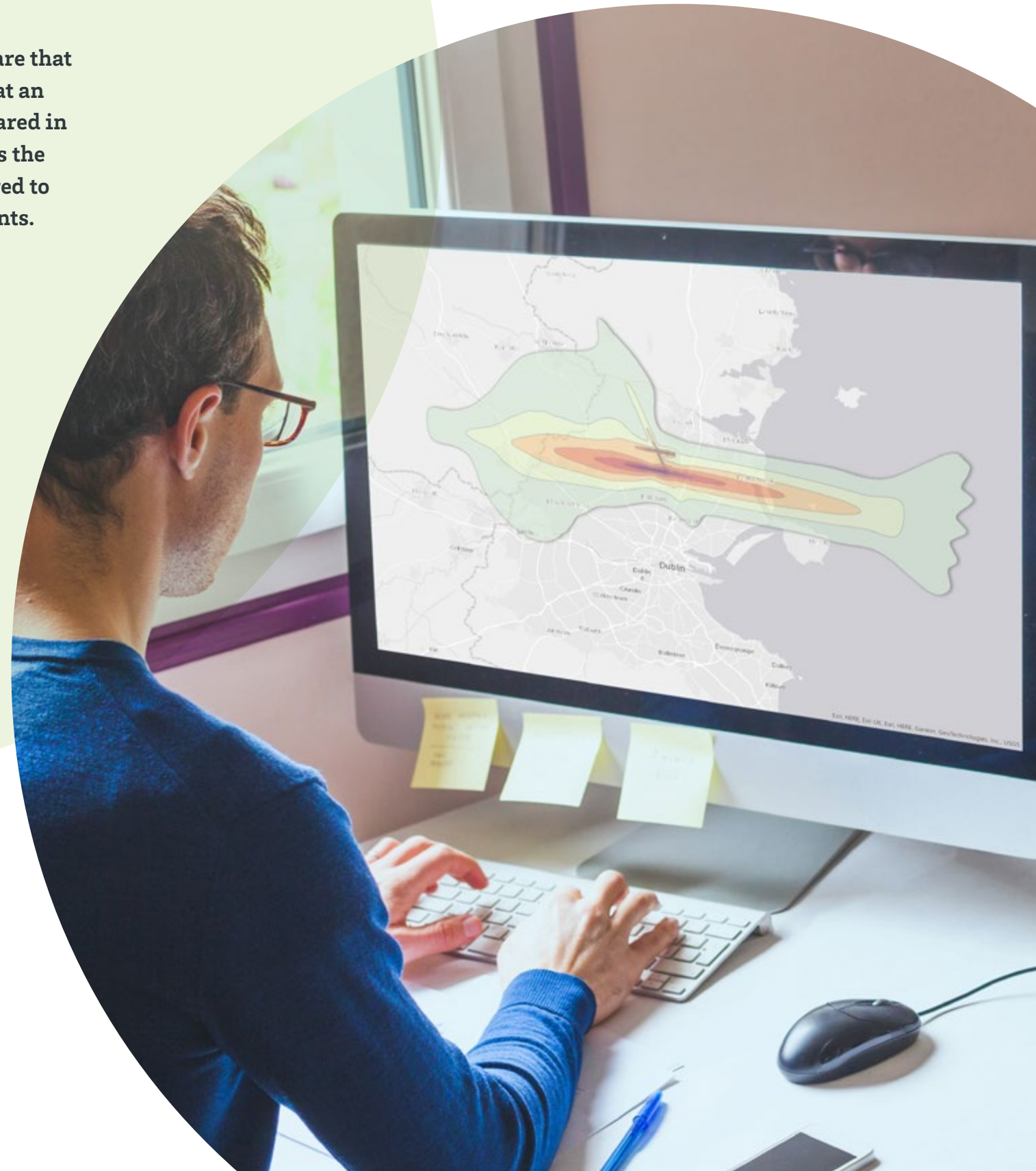
Aircraft noise is modelled using specialised computer software that accumulates the data for all aircraft arrival and departures at an airport during a calendar year. These noise models are prepared in accordance with methodologies that are standardised across the European Union to ensure that decisions that may be required to manage noise are based on reliable and consistent assessments.

An aviation technical specialist will ensure that models are adjusted to the specific circumstances that apply at each individual airport.

These models are used to produce noise contours that present the impact of aviation across a full year, for the different periods of the day and night. This approach permits the comparison of different years, allows the impact of proposed development to be assessed, and different runway use patterns to be compared.

As we do not experience noise in an 'averaged' way however, it is also important to have access to the noise impact of individual aircraft, along with the hours and numbers during which they operate.

Links to noise data is available for Dublin on the ANCA website for both individual aircraft events and accumulated averaged contours.



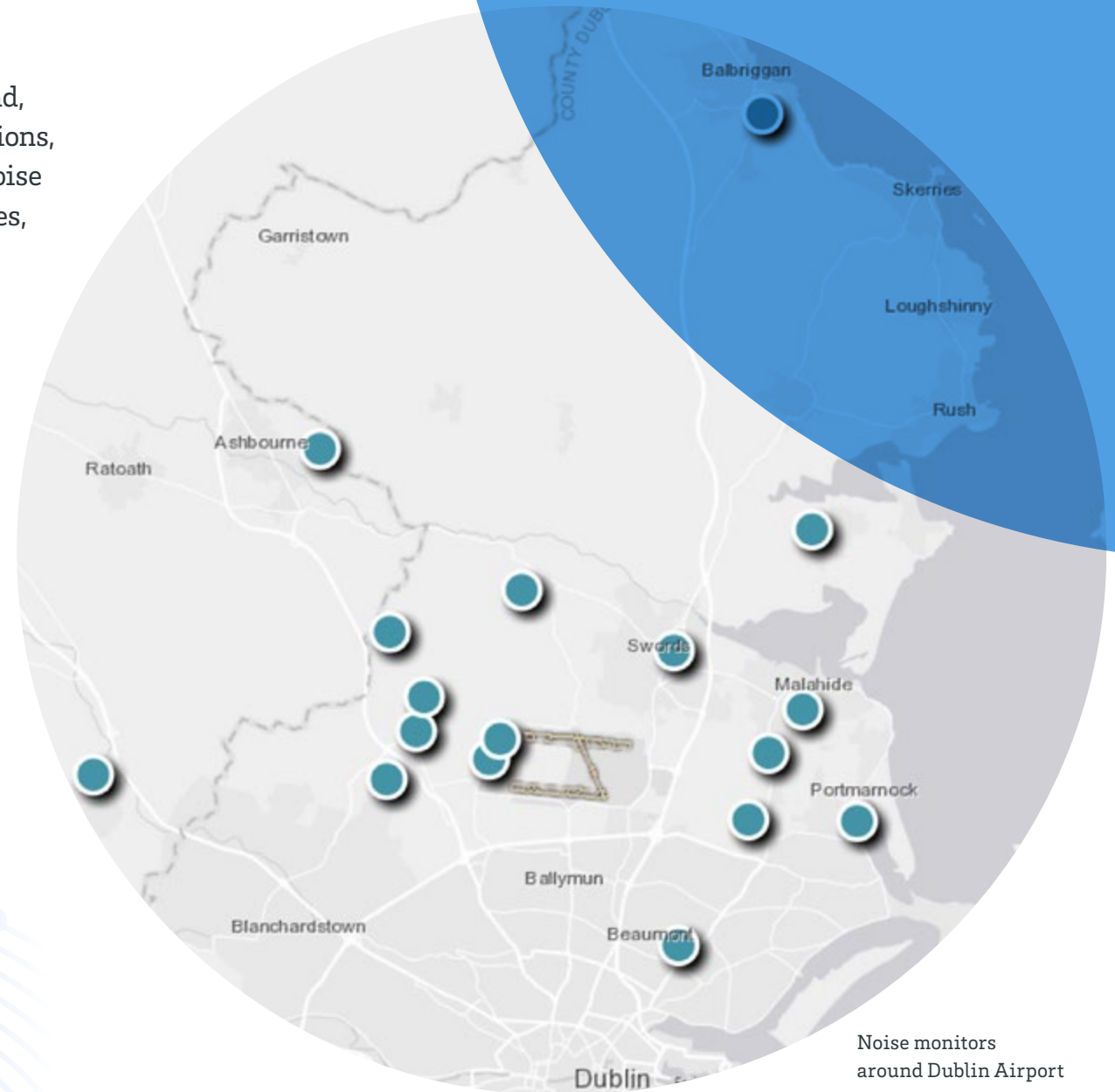
Noise monitors in the communities around Dublin Airport

During 2023, ANCA continued to work with the airport authority on a multi-annual programme to expand the number of aircraft noise monitors around the airport.

There has been significant community interest in this project and, although it is not possible to have a monitor in all requested locations, the network will, when completed, provide information on the noise level of individual aircraft at a representative number of distances, altitudes and locations around the airport.

During 2023, the number of noise monitors around Dublin Airport was increased to 19 - that is an increase of 171% since the programme began in 2020. Additional monitors are scheduled to be commissioned during 2024.

The locations and data from all Dublin Airport noise monitors may be viewed on the airport's public web portal at www.webtrak.emsbk.com/dub1.



Noise monitors around Dublin Airport

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Financial statement

The 2023 budget headings and costs for ANCA are listed below. Legislation requires that the operational costs of the authority shall be recouped from the airport authority on an annual basis through an airport levy regulation.

Operational costs	€40,623
Staff costs	€424,023
Specialist external support services	€425,289
Office and shared services overheads	€272,444



05

Communications and stakeholder engagement

Community Events

ANCA's staff participate in community events to promote an understanding of the functions of the authority and how our work contributes to the overall management of aircraft noise.

During 2023, our team presented to third-level aviation students and second level transition year pupils.

Individual engagements

During 2023, ANCA visited community locations to listen to the lived experiences of people around Dublin Airport.

Meetings were also facilitated at our office in Swords with residents, community groups and public representatives to explain the work of the authority and how this may affect the communities where people live and work.

ANCA is committed to ensuring that information relating to the impact of aircraft noise in the community is available in a way that is relevant and suitable for the needs of a wide variety of audiences.

Xplore
YOUR FUTURE
FINGAL TV SKILLS EXPO 2023



ANCA presenting to third level aviation students

06

Our plans for 2024



During 2024, ANCA will continue to assess and report on the aircraft noise climate around the airport. 2023 was the first full year of aircraft operations at Dublin Airport since the new runway opened and, although some departure routes changed during February, the annual noise contours will facilitate an examination of how the changes that occurred through the year have an impact on the neighbouring communities. These contours will be published on the ANCA website as they become available.



While monitoring the aircraft noise climate is a significant aspect of our work, it does not necessarily lead to regulation for amended noise management measures. ANCA monitors the noise impact on all communities from all runway operations. The Noise Abatement Objective for Dublin Airport gives equal consideration to all citizens as it seeks to reduce the noise impact for the greatest number of people possible, regardless of where they live.



In 2024, the multi-year programme for the implementation of additional community noise monitors by the airport authority is scheduled for completion. During 2024, it is expected that a network of 25 monitors will provide a comprehensive picture of the noise levels from aircraft arriving and departing Dublin Airport. These will be at a representative number of altitudes and distances from the airport. The programme includes two mobile monitors that can be rotated through additional community locations.



In December 2023, daa submitted a planning application to Fingal County Council seeking to develop the airport in the years ahead. This year ANCA will assess the development proposals in detail to ascertain whether any new or amended measures are necessary to manage the aircraft noise impact of the proposed development. Public participation will be a significant part of the assessment process.



The ANCA website www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca, will remain the primary interface for sharing information relevant to our work.

All reports prepared by the authority will be available to review and download from our website. These will include the outcome of reviews of the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures at Dublin Airport on our website, together with the compliance reports of the airport authority.

07

Contact ANCA

ANCA strives to deliver the highest possible quality of service to everyone that contacts us.

- ✦ Our team engages with everyone 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.

Website

<https://www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca>

Updates on X (formerly Twitter)

[@aircraftnoiseca](https://twitter.com/aircraftnoiseca)

Post

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