

Head of Economic Affairs
Commission for Aviation Regulation



Title of Position: Head of Economic Affairs
Office: Commission for Aviation Regulation
Location: Dublin, Ireland

The Commission for Aviation Regulation (CAR)

The CAR is a statutory body established by the Aviation Regulation Act 2001 and operates under the aegis of the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport. It is funded from annual levies imposed on stakeholders and from licence and approval fees from applicants. It currently has a budget of circa €2.5m to carry out its activities.

Its primary economic roles are to set the price caps in respect of airport charges at Dublin airport. These price caps are set at regular cyclical timelines of 5 years duration.

The CAR also has responsibility for:

- Airline licensing for airlines registered in Ireland
- Tour Operators and Travel Agents licensing and bonding arrangements
- Ground Handling operator approvals at the State airports
- The enforcement of air passenger rights (APR) under EC Regulation 261/2004 and for passengers with reduced mobility (PRM) under EC Regulation 1107/2006
- Oversight of the airline schedules facilitation regime (“the slots regime”) at Dublin Airport

Role of the Head of Economic Affairs

Overview

The Head of Economic Affairs is responsible for both managing and carrying out tasks primarily relating to the economic regulation of the DAA’s airport charges at Dublin Airport. The Head may also be required at times to provide more general economic advice to the office not directly related to the price cap, but in areas that could impact on the ability of the office to efficiently fulfil its statutory remit.

Head of Economic Affairs
Commission for Aviation Regulation



Within the Commission, the Head of Economic Affairs reports directly to the Commissioner. Outside of the Commission, the Head is expected to work closely with the Department of Transport and other interested Government Departments, as well as the DAA, IAA, airlines and other airport users.

Skills

Economics - The position requires an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the principles of incentive-based economic regulation as applied to utility regulation and/or the regulation of large infrastructure providers. This includes an appreciation of the technical, legal and economic issues that are critical for the successful regulation of the aviation sector in Ireland. A Master's degree in Economics is a minimum requirement while a Doctorate in the same field is desirable.

Communication skills – The position involves working closely with a small team of regulatory economists and lawyers within the Commission. The Commission is also required to communicate its ideas and recommendations with the regulated companies and the wider general public. It is important therefore for the Head of Economic Affairs to have excellent communication and presentation skills.

Detailed description of the role

The main regulatory tool at the Commission's disposal is the multi-year price cap that applies to the DAA's regulated activities. The Head should be familiar with the detailed calculations and economic tools used to derive the price cap, including:

- Building blocks approach – OPEX, Capital Costs and commercial revenues;
- The regulatory cost of capital and how it is calculated; and
- Financial model – including maintaining and developing the model for both internal and external consumption.

Outside of the multi-year price-cap cycle, and aside from any appeals or interim reviews, the Head of Economic Affairs is expected to liaise with the regulated company and the parties affected by regulation on ways in which the approach to regulation might be improved to the benefit of all stakeholders, and in particular customers. This includes keeping abreast of relevant research developments in academia. The Head may also be asked to represent the

Head of Economic Affairs
Commission for Aviation Regulation



Commission at conferences and meetings relating to the role of the Commission, as and when required.

The successful applicant will also be expected to advise on other policy issues affecting the office, and to form part of the senior management team.

Tenure

The CAR is seeking to fill this post on a full time permanent post at the grade of Principal Officer. It will be necessary for candidates to demonstrate that they have the level of knowledge and depth of experience for this role.

Pay

The pay scale for this post is €79,401-€97,194 inclusive of 2 long service increments for Class A PRSI payers.

Pension Scheme

The CAR has an existing pension scheme broadly modelled on the Model Scheme of the Irish Civil Service. The appointee is required to join this scheme or the Single Public Service Superannuation Scheme depending on whether or not they are existing public or civil servants. It is not in a position to accept non-funded transfer of service as the CAR is not a member of the Public Service Pensions Transfer network.

Closing date for the receipt of a CV and a letter stating why you believe you are suitable for this post is: 5 p.m. on 16th December 2014.

Please forward documents to info@aviationreg.ie only