

Commission Announces Consultation on Airport Charges Review.

The Commission for Aviation Regulation today (5th September 2006) announced the opening of a public consultation on a review of the maximum levels of airport charges at Dublin Airport.

The Consultation paper - CP6/2006 - asks respondents to submit their views on a number of questions which are central to the Commission's consideration of any modification of airport charges arising from the Dublin Airport Authority's capital investment programme at Dublin Airport.

The consultation paper can be accessed via the Commission's website - www.aviationreg.ie. - hard copies are available from the Commission.

The Commission has asked that responses to the questions raised in the consultation paper and any other relevant observations should be submitted to the Commission no later than 12 noon on Thursday 28 September 2006.

The Commission also announced that it intends to host an open information meeting on the question of a review of Dublin Airport aeronautical charges at the Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport, on the afternoon of Monday 11th September next. Further details of this meeting will be posted on the Commission's website.

Commenting on these developments, the Commissioner for Aviation Regulation, Mr. Cathal Guiomard said:

"When we published our Determination of Airport Charges in September 2005, we stated that it might be necessary to review the level of airport charges arising from a revised capital investment plan by the DAA. We have now come to the conclusion that there appear to be substantial grounds for such a review. In addition, there may be further grounds for a review due to revisions to airlines' business plans since September 2005 which may also have required the DAA to increase the scale of its planned airport investment. While we have had considerable engagement on these matters in recent months with the DAA, we also wish to give an opportunity to airport users, and to the wider industry, to express their views as to the need for a review, the grounds for a review, and finally the scope of a review. We are announcing today the start of a consultation process. We have published a consultation paper on our website, setting out the position as it appears at present to the Commission, and inviting comment from the industry and other interested parties."

Mr Guiomard added that while some parts of the Irish aviation industry appeared to be calling for haste in carrying out a review and in raising airport charges, other sectors expressed with equal conviction the view that charges are already too high. It is essential, therefore, according to the Commissioner, that all relevant views are taken into account and that a rational decision is arrived at in a timely manner.

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