

Thursday July 4, 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of WestJet, I am writing to express our support of Dublin Airport's plans to expand the capacity and capability of the airport while holding rates and fees flat.

Like other airlines, WestJet wants airport costs to be as low as possible. This goal, however, must be balanced against the need for facilities redevelopment and expansion in support of growth, continued safety of operations, and improvement of the traveler experience.

WestJet began serving Dublin in 2014 utilizing our narrow body fleet, flying from eastern Canada. This year we launched additional service non-stop from Calgary on our new widebody 787 fleet. This service from Calgary to Dublin was met with significant barriers due to facility and runway constraints, and we have concerns that future growth will not be possible unless the capacity of the airport is increased.

In some cases, airports embark upon capital projects which are not cost-effective and often self-defeating. As costs increase, air service becomes less-viable, and demand/traffic declines. This results in lower guest volumes, rendering expensive expansions unnecessary and a burden to remaining carriers and the flying public.

In contrast to this, Dublin Airport's plan to keep rates and fees flat while addressing infrastructure constraints is an example of a measured and reasonable approach to growth. This will both facilitate WestJet's growth plans for routes to/from Dublin but also keep costs low enough to ensure that new demand can be stimulated at reasonable fare levels, benefitting consumers on both sides of the Atlantic. Dublin and Ireland continue to attract increasing levels of guests and if capacity constraints at the airport are not relieved, this demand will go unaddressed and many of these guests will choose other destinations in Europe for their discretionary travel.

We support the daa's request that airport charges remain at approximately €9.65 per passenger for the period 2020 – 2024 to provide the necessary income daa requires to finance the capital investment which has been requested by airlines and ratified by CAR. We are happy to elaborate on our support for daa's capital plan should you desire, and please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mike McNaney
Vice President, Industry and Airport Affairs
WestJet