

- 1.1 In the Final Decision on the Interim Review for 2022, we noted that the waiving of individual incidents of apparent non-compliance may be allowed when Dublin Airport can demonstrate extenuating circumstances. We expected that the likelihood of force majeure type events would likely remain higher, particularly in the beginning of 2022, due to the impacts of the Omicron variant on absences. In January, this has been the case.
- 1.2 Dublin Airport has reported 14 instances of the maximum security queue time exceeding the targets at Dublin Airport in January. These occurred on the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 16th and 28th of January, with several occurring within the one day on a number of these dates. Penalties apply on a daily basis and as such this would imply seven breaches in January.
- 1.3 Dublin Airport has provided us with evidence of extenuating circumstances relating to the effects of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on the absence rate of the Airport Search Unit officers. The rate of sickness absence in Dublin Airport's security team was 22% in January, of which two thirds was directly related to COVID-19. This is over four times higher than the sickness absence level normally planned for. In our view, this meets the criteria for a force majeure event. As such, we are waiving all penalties related to security queue time targets for the month of January 2022.
- 1.4 We intend to keep the situation under review for February. We will review any evidence presented by Dublin Airport in assessing whether the force majeure event has continued into February.