

Consultation on Cork CTR – Proposal of permanent UAS Geographical Zone

02 2026



Consultation Note:

IAA Aeronautical Notice U 04, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/947, already provides for Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) UAS operations over Cork City, within the Control Zone (CTR), subject to certain conditions. To ensure the safe conduct of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations over Cork City, a temporary Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Geographical Zone (UGZ) will be established which sets out additional conditions to be met by UAS operators to gain an entry authorisation.

As an interim measure, pending the implementation of U-space (as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/664), there is a proposal to make this temporary UGZ (T2) permanent, therefore, the Irish Aviation Authority is conducting a targeted consultation of airspace users on the proposed establishment of a permanent UGZ in the Cork City area to support BVLOS operations.

The purpose of this targeted consultation is to invite feedback from airspace users, on the transition from the temporary UGZ T2 structure to a permanent UGZ. The proposed permanent UGZ maintains the established lateral boundaries, vertical limits, and associated access permission processes for UAS operators, with the aim of ensuring safe, expeditious and coordinated UAS activity in the area.

We welcome your views and encourage you to participate by completing the [online consultation form](#). The deadline for submissions is 17:00hrs on 14 03 2026.



Link to the consultation form

If you experience any difficulties using the Microsoft Forms platform, please contact us at consultation@iaa.ie

*This email address should not be used for submissions.

Thank you for taking time to provide your views on the proposed airspace change within Cork CTR.

Cork CTR – Proposal of permanent UAS Geographical Zone

1.1 Executive Summary

IAA Aeronautical Notice U 04, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/947, already provides for the VLOS UAS operations over Cork City (within the Control Zone (CTR)), subject to certain conditions. To ensure the safe conduct of BVLOS operations over Cork City, a UGZ will be established which sets out additional conditions to be met by UAS operators to gain entry authorisation

As an interim measure, pending the implementation of U-space (as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/664), there is a proposal to make this temporary UGZ (T2) permanent, therefore, the Irish Aviation Authority is conducting a targeted consultation of airspace users on the proposed establishment of a permanent UGZ in the Cork City area to support BVLOS operations.

This proposed permanent UGZ is intended to align with the operational footprint of Temporary UGZ T2, to be established under [Aeronautical Notice U.04](#) Issue 29.6, which is valid from 6th February 2026 and will be active from 14 February 2026 to 13 May 2026.

The purpose of this targeted consultation is to invite feedback from airspace users, on the transition from the temporary UGZ T2 structure to a permanent UGZ. The proposed permanent UGZ maintains the established lateral boundaries, vertical limits, and associated access-permission processes for UAS operators, with the aim of ensuring safe, expeditious and coordinated UAS activity in the area.

1.2 Background and Purpose

This consultation supports the introduction of a structured permanent airspace arrangement to enable routine BVLOS operations in Cork City while ensuring:

- Maintenance of a high level of safety.
- Appropriate deconfliction with other airspace users.
- Compliance with national UAS geographical-zone direction under U.04 Issue 29.6.
- Expeditious and standardised coordination with Cork Airport ATC.

The proposed permanent UGZ overlays the same area used for BVLOS operations and is defined by the airspace volume published as Temporary UGZ T2.

1.3 Description of the Proposed UGZ

Relationship with UGZ T2 Under U.04

Temporary UGZ T2, active from 14/02/2026 to 13/05/2026, is already established as the required airspace volume for BVLOS operations in Cork. This consultation proposes to

establish a corresponding permanent UGZ structure that:

- Uses UGZ T2's airspace footprint as its basis,
- Provides clarity and transparency through public consultation.

Geographic Scope

This permanent UGZ is defined based on the UGZ T2 operational area coordinates specified in Appendix A) and includes:

- Area: Cork South operational area.
- Vertical Limits: Up to 400ft AMSL, consistent with the BVLOS operational parameters.
- Excluded Area: U45 Cork Prison, a permanently published UAS Geographical Zone under U.04, remains strictly prohibited.
- Operating Hours: Daily 08:00–22:00 (local time).

Relation to Existing Airspace

The proposed permanent UGZ overlays portions of UGZ U33, and within the confines of UGZ U61_A which continues to be managed through AirNav Ireland (ANI) Air Traffic Control (ATC) at Cork Airport under existing procedures.

1.4 Access & Permission Process

To ensure safe integration of BVLOS operations with other UAS activity:

- Prior Permission Required: All UAS operators intending to operate within or transit the UGZ must obtain permission from ANI ATC at Cork Airport no later than 2 days before the planned activity.
- UF101 Submission: Applications must be submitted via suaairspace@airnav.ie.
Coordination: ANI ATC at Cork Airport will coordinate approval with the BVLOS operator

1.5 Safety Framework

The BVLOS operator's layered safety framework includes:

- Geofencing
- Contingency and abort corridors
- Ground-risk buffers
- Flight Termination System (FTS)

1.6 Real-Time Coordination & Emergency Procedures

- Daily start- and end-of-operations coordination will occur between the BVLOS operator and ANI ATC at Cork Airport.
- ANI ATC at Cork Airport retains authority to suspend operations immediately (e.g., for State Flights, HEMS, SAR, Coast Guard, or An Garda Síochána operations).
- The BVLOS operator may require up to 15 minutes to vacate the airspace during emergency suspension.

1.7 Consultation Process

Key Principles

This consultation is conducted according to the following principles:

- Safety as the primary consideration.
- Compliance with EU and Irish regulatory frameworks.
- Airspace user stakeholder engagement during the permanent airspace-change process.

Required Steps Reflected in This Consultation

This consultation reflects the following steps:

- Defining the operational need, scope, and objectives (BVLOS integration in Cork).
- A structured consultation period allowing airspace user stakeholder feedback.
- Airspace Regulatory assessment following consultation.

1.8 How to Respond

Airspace user Stakeholders are invited to provide comments on:

- The alignment of the proposed permanent UGZ with Temporary UGZ T2,
- The proposed boundary and vertical limits,
- Coordination procedures
- Emergency procedures,
- Potential impacts on aviation operations

Submit Comments via :

- [Online MS Form linked to this Document](#)

Cork CTA - UAS Geographical Zone Consultation



Late submissions will not be considered.

1.9 Next Steps

After the consultation closes:

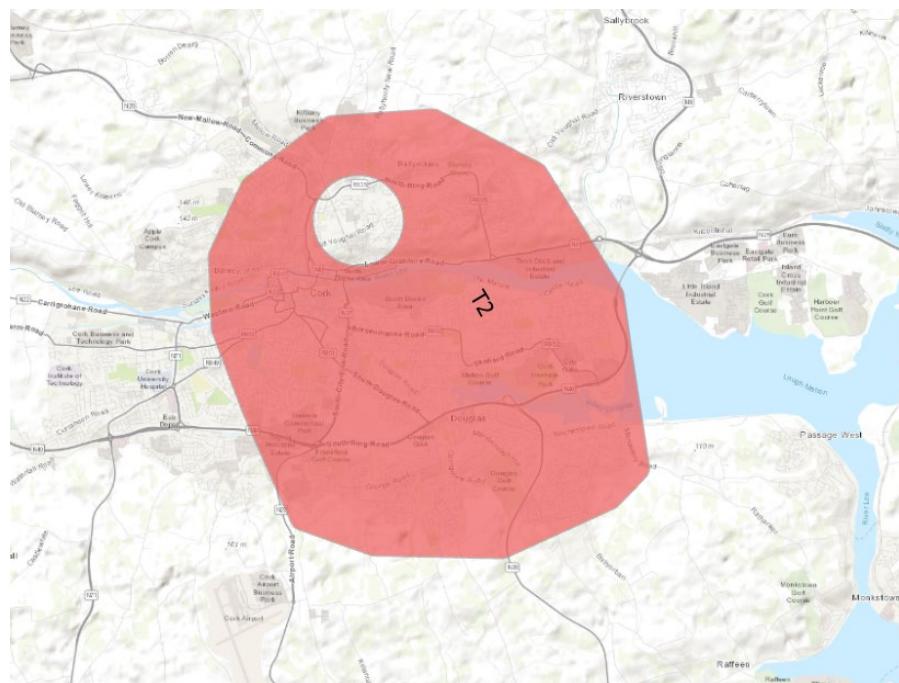
- All feedback will be reviewed in accordance with IAA processes.
- Adjustments to the proposed permanent UGZ may be made where appropriate.
- Final permanent UGZ details will be promulgated through the IAA and national aeronautical-information channels.

2. Appendix A — Proposed UGZ

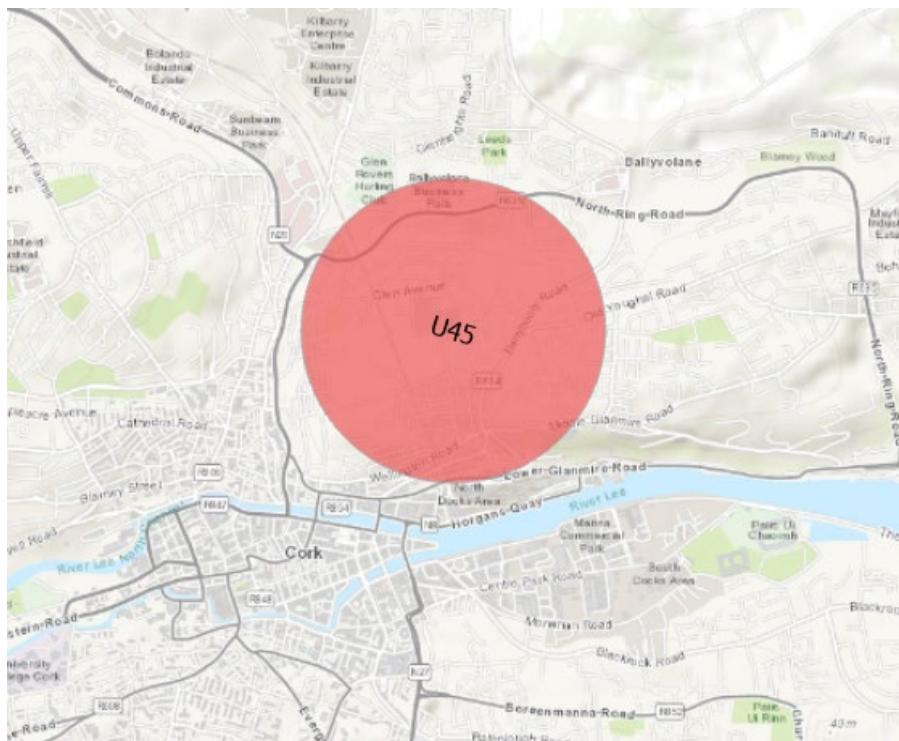
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Coordinates



Area of T2



Area of U45 excluded from T2