

Statement of Strategy 2026 – 2028 Consultation



## **Consultation Note**

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) invites stakeholders and members of the public to a consultation on the IAA Statement of Strategy for the period 2026–2028. As part of this process, we are inviting feedback from stakeholders and the wider public to help shape our strategic direction over the coming years. We welcome your views and encourage you to participate by completing the specific <u>online consultation form</u>. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 5th September 2025.



The purpose of this form is to consult on the details of the IAA Statement of Strategy for reference period 2026-2028. Stakeholders and interested persons are invited to review details of the Strategy proposed by IAA and to assess whether our strategy aligns with your expectations (using a Likert scale). Please select "Neutral" if you have no opinion on any specific question. We would also welcome any comments you have and offer you the opportunity to suggest changes at the detailed level.

If you experience any difficulties using the Microsoft Forms platform, please contact us at <a href="mailto:consultation@iaa.ie">consultation@iaa.ie</a> This email address should not be used for submissions.

Thank you for taking time to provide your views on our Statement of Strategy.

### **Foreword**

Aviation connectivity continues to be a vital enabler for the economic growth and prosperity of Ireland, increasingly connecting Ireland to the rest of the world. It also provides an excellent opportunity for technological innovation in Ireland with the growth in innovative air mobility and the drive to make aviation more sustainable.

At the IAA, it is our role to maintain the trust and value placed by the general public on the safety and security of civil aviation by appropriately implementing the applicable ICAO Standards, EU and national regulations, conducting appropriate oversight of our aviation industry through certification, licensing and continuous oversight inspection of their operations, as well as providing a robust level of consumer protection and economic regulation.

This is fully aligned with the Programme for Government and the Department of Transport's mission to deliver an accessible, efficient, safe and sustainable air transport system that supports communities, households and businesses, and further aligns with the National Aviation Policy to increase the connectivity of Ireland to the World. Ireland also benefits from the global aviation industry based abroad, not just entities we regulate in Ireland. We promote the highest safety and security standards and best practices globally to ensure aviation continues to facilitate the global movement of Irish goods and people. Civil aviation stakeholders include everyone from the general public to passengers, aviation enthusiasts, amateur aviators, aviation professionals and industry. We strive to ensure that stakeholders remain confident we

will deliver the best safety, security and economic regulatory practices and act with integrity and impartiality in all regulatory matters.

Civil aviation continues to evolve, and innovations such as artificial intelligence, autonomous operations, advanced materials and new power sources offer new opportunities for Irish industry. We will continue to facilitate and support innovation in aviation, through regulatory support of R&D projects and help fledging industries to establish related design, production and/or operational bases in Ireland.

We are pleased to present our Statement of Strategy for the period 2026-2028. This document outlines our strategic priorities and the actions we will take to achieve our mission of ensuring we regulate to the highest professional standards to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and consumer-focused aviation environment.

In a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape, we will remain agile and responsive to the needs of our stakeholders. This strategy has been developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and staff and reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in regulatory practice.

Our strategy addresses six strategic priorities:

- Enhancing Regulatory Performance
- Protecting the public
- Promoting Sustainability
- Supporting stakeholders
- Supporting Innovation and Growth
- Building Organisational Capability

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# Section 1: Introduction

#### IAA - Who we are

We are the single civil aviation regulator for Ireland, responsible for the safety, security and economic regulation of aviation, including consumer interests.

Our responsibilities are set out in the framework of applicable global, European and national legislation/regulation.

#### Our Vision - Where we want to be

To be a global regulatory leader in safe, secure, sustainable, and innovative civil aviation, enhancing national and international connectivity, supporting economic growth while ensuring the protection of the public.

#### Our Mission - What we do

The Irish Aviation Authority regulates to the highest professional standards to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and consumer-focused civil aviation environment. We support world-class performance and innovation in Irish and global aviation.

## **Our Core Values**

#### **Safety First**

We uphold the highest standards of civil aviation safety and security in everything we do for the benefit of aircraft passengers and crew and in the interest of the public.

#### **Consumer-Focused**

We prioritise the rights of consumers, ensuring a safe, secure and efficient civil aviation experience.

#### Sustainability

We support the development of aviation in a sustainable manner that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding the needs of the future.

#### **Integrity & Accountability**

We act with transparency, fairness, and responsibility in all our decisions and actions.

#### **Professionalism**

We maintain the highest levels of expertise, ethics, responsiveness and conduct in our work, and we recognise our true strength is in our people.

#### Collaboration

We work closely with stakeholders to promote trust, alignment, and shared success.

## **Respect & Inclusion**

We value diverse perspectives and foster an inclusive, respectful workplace and stakeholder environment.

# **Section 2: Strategic Priorities**

In delivering on our mission and aligned with our core values, we will ensure the best use of our available resources by focussing on six strategic priorities and related strategies, objectives and actions.

Our strategic priorities for the coming years are:

**Enhancing Regulatory Performance**: We will continue to refine and strengthen our regulatory framework and the efficiency and responsiveness of our regulatory performance.

**Protecting the Public**: Ensuring the protection of consumers remains at the heart of our mission. We will enhance our efforts to safeguard consumer interests and promote fair treatment. The safety of persons on-board aircraft or persons otherwise impacted by civil aviation activities is at the forefront of our concerns.

**Promoting Sustainability:** We will meet relevant targets for our own operations and ensure appropriate oversight over civil aviation climate impacts and industry adaptation preparedness, and we will embed sustainability in our day to day and strategic decision making.

**Supporting Stakeholders:** We will support stakeholder interests during the development of international standards and regulations, and will support stakeholders in the implementation of regulatory requirements using a balanced and collaborative approach.

**Supporting Innovation and Growth**: We will continue to be an innovative regulator and will support innovation within the civil aviation industry while ensuring that growth is sustainable and optimises the benefits to stakeholders.

**Building Organisational Capability**: We are committed to investing in our people and systems to enhance our capability to deliver on our strategic objectives. Our organisation will reflect our fundamental commitment to respect diversity and inclusion.

# Strategic Priority 1: Enhancing regulatory performance in safety and security

Our overall objective is to deliver effective and efficient safety and security regulation in line with Global and European best practice to ensure safety and security of persons on-board aircraft or persons otherwise impacted by civil aviation activities.

Strategy	Objectives	Actions
Continuously improve the EU and National	A regulatory framework that keeps pace with	Working with ICAO Groups, ECAC, EC, EASA Advisory
regulatory framework to ensure it protects the	technological developments.	Bodies and Technical Boards to ensure the EU
interests of the public and aligns with international		Regulatory Framework
obligations and best practices in a fair and	Less prescriptive and more performance-based	keeps pace with technological and
proportionate manner.	regulations implemented.	operational advances
	Simplified rules for small and medium entities using	<ul><li> is fair and proportionate</li><li> is evidence based</li></ul>
	a risk-based approach.	<ul> <li>is supported by impact assessment</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>provides optimum flexibility</li> </ul>
	Regulations that promote competition.	<ul> <li>is simplified where possible</li> </ul>
	Regulations that promote competition.	·
	Improved a constant to the least are related to a vide a configuration.	is supported by related guidance that is  to illustrate to provide a finishment.
	Improved access to tailored regulatory guidance for	tailored to meet the needs of different
	regulated entities and the public.	sectors.
		Working with Irish Stakeholders to ensure the
		national regulatory framework meets the same
		objectives.
Provide robust and efficient regulatory oversight	Effective Risk-Based Oversight planning	Enhanced tools for data-based decision making to
that provides assurance that compliance with	implemented in all relevant regulatory divisions.	support risk-based oversight planning.
regulatory requirements is being met and that		
focuses on areas of greatest concern.	Reduced turnaround times for regulatory responses.	Leveraging our digital strategy to provide efficiency
		gains through enhanced business processes and
		increased transparency to stakeholders on
		interactions (e.g. applications).

Providing greater efficiency in oversight planning (e.g. cross functional oversight for multiple certificat holders).
Provide greater efficiency in enforcement actions, including the implementation of fixed charge notice for specified offences.

# Strategic Priority 2: Enhancing regulatory performance in economic and commercial regulation and consumer protection

Our overall objective is to deliver effective and efficient economic and commercial regulation and consumer protection to protect passengers, and airport and airspace users.

Strategy	Objectives	Actions
Ensure efficient and high-quality civil aviation	Efficient and optimised airport charges which	When setting capacity and overseeing the allocation
infrastructure and services in Ireland that promote	maximise the value being provided by Dublin	of capacity we will ensure we are facilitating new
competition and deliver choice, value and	Airport, as part of a regulatory price control decision	entrants and new routes as far as possible.
connectivity for passengers.	which generates optimal incentives.	
		When assessing capacity infrastructure at Dublin
	Enable the delivery of high-quality infrastructure	Airport, we will ensure it increases the scope for
	which is in the interests of users, and which delivers	market entry and growth.
	capacity and service improvements.	
		When assessing annual charges at Dublin Airport we
	New air carriers entering the market.	will ensure they are non-discriminatory.
	New routes established.	We will deliver Airport charges regulation which is in
		the best interest of users of Dublin Airport, including
	Increased competition on existing routes.	the assessment of capital investment plans to ensure
		it is in the interest of users and at an appropriate
	High performance by Dublin Airport across key	cost.
	services provided to passengers and airlines.	
		Monitoring and reporting on performance quality.
		Implement a StageGate process to ensure continued
		assessment of capital projects as they develop.

Ensure efficient air navigation services, which	Performance by Irish ANSPs which meets or exceeds	Approval by the EC of the Irish performance scheme
deliver a high level of capacity, low delay, and	the targets we set for them.	for ATM/ANS Service Providers under the single sky
excellent airspace efficiency.		regulations for RP4.
	Improvements in how European level targets are set	
	and measured.	Work with the ANSPs to ensure delivery of
		performance which matches or exceeds targets.
	Enhanced incentives to promote delivery.	
		Work with Single Sky Committee and the NSA
		Coordination Board on the implementation of Single
		Sky Regulation 2+, including development of
		enhanced performance indicators, in particular for
		Environment, in RP5.
Ensure we deliver a high-quality service, in a timely	Turnaround times for licence holders consistent with	Robust decision making.
manner, to our commercial and personnel licence	our commitments and KPIs.	
holders and that we deliver effective economic		Risk based monitoring and reporting in commercial
regulatory oversight including effective insolvency	Robust financial monitoring with fair and	licensing.
protection for consumers of travel agents and tour	proportionate remedies.	
operators.		Add innovations to our processes, procedures and
	Insolvency scheme which is effectively funded.	outputs (for example, how we conduct financial
		monitoring, issuing of digital licensing.)
		Work with the Department of Transport to develop
		and implement revisions to the travel trade
		insolvency scheme so that it is effectively funded
		with fair risk allocation.
Support consumers by increasing public awareness	High level of awareness of rights among the public.	Development and implementation of our consumer
of air passenger rights and ensuring airlines deliver		communications strategy.
on air passenger rights.	Accurate communications of rights by airlines at	
	times of disruptions.	

		Encuring that communications by industry comply
		Ensuring that communications by industry comply
	Customers of travel trade know their rights.	with the relevant regulations.
	Description with an discouling the little and the l	Talian antaganan at aging when a salad
	Passengers with reduced mobility or disabilities know	laking enforcement action where needed.
	what to expect when travelling by air.	
	Passengers supported during disruptions.	
	rassengers supported during disruptions.	
	Airlines efficiently and effectively dealing with	
	passenger claims after a disruption.	
	When passengers need us to intervene, we do so	
	effectively and ensure rights are upheld.	
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Increase access to air transport for passengers with	Improved facilitation of the movement of passengers	Implement a case handling process for the European
disabilities or reduced mobility.		Accessibility Act.
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	All aspects of the journey are accessible, in	Ensure compliance by airlines and airport in relation
	compliance with the European Accessibility Act.	to the provision of assistance.
		·
	High quality services provided by Airport Authorities	Ensure all complaints we receive are dealt with
	to those needing assistance.	efficiently and effectively and remedies are put in
		place by the airlines or airports.
	Overall increased confidence in ability to travel	
	among those with disabilities or those needing	
	assistance.	
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# Strategic Priority 3: Promoting Sustainability

Our overall objective is to set a new standard for sustainability regulation and performance.

Strategy	Objectives	Actions
Meet and exceed our organisational environmental	IAA Sustainability Management Plan to 2028	Obtain improved BER rating through office
responsibilities.	implemented.	refurbishment project 2025/2026.
	Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)	Meet our ESG reporting obligations on
	reporting framework established.	sustainability.
Provide regulatory support and guidance to	Support industry in implementing technology driven	Support industry in implementing sustainable
regulated entities to meet their environmental	sustainable aviation initiatives.	aviation initiatives, such as EU wide ECO label,
responsibilities.		Hydrogen and SAF production, electric/hydrogen
	Support implementation of aircraft operational	propulsion, carbon neutral business aviation.
	initiatives that help reduce carbon emissions.	
		Support operational initiatives to reduce carbon
		emissions such as RECAT (Wake Turbulence
		Recategorization), TBS (Time-Based Separation) and
		CDA (Continuous Descent Arrivals).
		Support of industry led initiatives to address
		environmental issues.
Our regulatory decisions will consider and take	Decisions which have considered sustainability	Our newly established sustainability division will
account of sustainability where appropriate.	resulting in improvements in environment	support other divisions to ensure that we maximise
	performance, or for example regulated entities.	our impact on improved environment performance.
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Develop new sustainability engagement and	New engagement and communication programme	Develop and implement a sustainability plan,
communication programme that unifies our	in place.	leverage existing and new relationships, write a new
existing and emerging sustainability initiatives.		training programme and create a sustainability
	Sustainability ambition clarified and communicated.	communications network across industry.
	Sustainability training for IAA staff and industry.	Provide a new engagement and communication programme that will:
	Provide expert guidance to support industry in	a) Clarify and communicate our sustainability
	dealing with complex sustainability challenges.	ambition and alignment with the UN Sustainable
		Development Goals through existing channels
		including our website, annual report and social
		media.
		b) Empower IAA staff and industry stakeholders
		through targeted sustainability training and
		awareness initiatives, to create a shared
		understanding of sustainability risks, responsibilities
		and opportunities.
		c) Position the IAA as a thought leader by
		creating a dedicated space for dialogue on complex
		sustainability challenges and by showcasing
		innovation and best practice across the Irish aviation
		sector.
Develop a work programme that embeds	The transition to cleaner fuels and technologies	Implement a work programme that will:
environmental excellence into the core of aviation	supported.	a) Establish a certified Environmental
oversight and innovation.	supported.	Management System (ISO 14001) that builds on our
oversignt and innovation.	Strengthened environmental oversight of airports,	existing ISO 9001 quality system, ensuring
	aircraft operators and ANSPs.	continuous improvement and accountability.
	anciait operators and Alvors.	continuous improvement and accountability.

Establish a certified Environmental Management	b) Assess options to promote transparency and
System (ISO 14001).	incentivise improved environmental performance of
	aircraft operators.
Climate resilience integrated into aviation sector	c) Strengthen environmental oversight of
planning.	airports, aircraft operators and ANSPs through a new
	dialogue that integrates environmental performance
Cross-industry collaboration fostered.	into operational excellence, including, local air
	quality and climate (CO2 and non-CO2).
	d) Integrate climate resilience into aviation
	sector planning, ensuring preparedness for climate-
	related risks.
	e) Foster cross-industry collaboration by
	supporting cutting-edge research into sustainable
	aviation technologies and operational practices in
	Ireland.

# Strategic Priority 4: Supporting Stakeholders

Our overall objective is to collaborate with and support stakeholders.

Strategy	Objectives	Actions
Promote a culture of transparency and collaboration	Stakeholder consultation forums or	Expand consultation outreach (e.g. cargo operators, regional
with regulated entities and other stakeholders.	initiatives established in all relevant	interest groups).
	domains.	
		Provide timely information to stakeholders and the public, as
	Improved information sharing	appropriate.
	processes in place.	
		Facilitate the provision of a safe space for sharing information
		with and between regulated entities and other stakeholders.
		Ensure legal provisions on confidentiality and protection of
		individuals are respected in sharing information.
		Provide a balanced approach in cases of opposing views arising from different stakeholders.
		Collaborate with other sectoral regulators in Ireland and other
		aviation regulators globally.
Provide clear, user-friendly, timely and accessible	Effective public consultation processes	Ensure all communications with the public comply with
consultations and information to the public and	in place.	accessibility requirements.
stakeholders.		
	Effective communications channels and	Provide timely responses and information to stakeholders.
	content established to meet the needs	
	of consumers.	Improve consultation outreach through use of our digital
		platforms, website and social media channels.

		Engage with Stakeholders to identify the most appropriate means of communicating with them.  Collaborate with industry on communications where appropriate, for example, in Air Passenger Rights during a disruption.
Represent the interests of Irish regulated entities and	•	Engage regularly with Stakeholders to identify current priorities.
Irish citizens in the development of international	international fora to effectively	
policies and civil aviation standards	represent Irish interests.	Identify and participate in relevant international forums to
		protect Irish interests.
		Report back to stakeholders on the result of the international
		engagement.
		Promote a national and EU/Global response to significant
		matters impacting Irish industry and consumers (e.g. skills
		shortage).
Ensure level playing field for Irish regulated entities	Enhanced processes to ensure	Engage with Stakeholders to highlight and explain notice of
in the development and implementation of the EU	stakeholders concerns are addressed in	proposed amendments (NPA), or equivalent, and help identify
and National civil aviation regulatory framework and	advance of the adoption of	areas of concern.
associated guidance.	new/amended regulations and	
	guidance.	Engage with Irish stakeholders to inform our position on
		proposed new regulations or amendments.
	Enhanced processes to ensure level	
	playing field is maintained in the	Provide a balanced approach in cases of opposing views from
		different stakeholders.

	implementation and oversight of new or amended regulations	Engage with stakeholders in the implementation of published regulations and interpretation of related guidance to address any concerns that Irish stakeholders may have (for example, in relation to level playing field).
Provide continued support to the Irish aviation leasing industry.	Continued growth of the aviation leasing industry in Ireland.	Enhanced support provided to leasing industry through our aircraft registration and certification digital platform and associated enhanced business processes.  Continued support of leasing through simplified cross-border transfers, implementation of the Cape Town convention and facilitating the storage and transition of aircraft using the Irish aircraft register.  Working to support the EASA digitalisation in aviation project, including the implementation by EASA of a digitised application process for aircraft supplemental type certificate designs.

# Strategic Priority 5: Supporting Innovation and Growth

Our overall objective is to support innovation in civil aviation as an enabler of growth in the aviation industry.

Objectives	Actions
Ireland is recognised as a centre of excellence for	Support R&D projects, to include regulatory
innovation, research and development in civil	sandbox, in areas such as innovative air mobility,
aviation.	sustainable aviation, use of artificial intelligence and
	others as may emerge.
	Support initiatives to create centres of excellence for
	innovation in civil aviation in Ireland.
Increased level of innovative civil aviation industries	Support provided to innovative industries in Ireland
established in Ireland.	to help navigate the regulatory journey for aircraft
	operations, and/or aviation related design and
	production, and/or aircraft maintenance.
	Implement measures to address regulatory skills
	shortages in the oversight of new and emerging technologies.
	Support industry initiatives to address skills
	shortages in respect of new and emerging
	technologies.
Continued growth in the availability of aviation	Provide regulatory support and encouragement to
professionals trained in Ireland.	general aviation activities in Ireland.
	Ireland is recognised as a centre of excellence for innovation, research and development in civil aviation.  Increased level of innovative civil aviation industries established in Ireland.  Continued growth in the availability of aviation

Ireland.	Provide regulatory support and guidance to aviation training schools and technical institutions engaged in training of future aviation professionals, including pilots, engineers, air traffic controllers and managers.
	Support government initiatives to increase aviation apprenticeships.  Support events aimed at encouraging interest in aviation among secondary school students.  Provide internships for aviation students.

# Strategic Priority 6: Building Organisational Capability

Our overall objective is to invest in our organisation and staff to continuously innovate and improve our competencies and efficiencies in the delivery of regulatory functions.

Strategy	Objectives	Actions
Provide for the ongoing personal and professional	Sufficient competent staff available to meet business	Develop a competency framework across all
development of staff to meet evolving business	needs.	regulatory divisions.
needs.		Implement and enhance our training platform to include training programmes and plans for staff and add e-Learning capability.
Enhance processes to support timely and databased decision making in the performance of regulatory functions.	and operational data to support regulatory decision making.	<ul> <li>Implement our Data and Analytics Strategy including:         <ul> <li>Identification of data requirements and gap analysis</li> <li>development of data architecture</li> <li>provision of data metrics, including Balanced Scorecard.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Use advanced data capabilities to maximise evidence-based support to regulatory decisions in respect of rulemaking, risk management, performance monitoring, change management and regulatory oversight.</li> </ul>
Implement business strategies to deliver efficient	Streamlined and digitalised internal business	Implement our digital strategy and related business
ways of working	processes implemented.	processes.

	Digital solutions implemented and in use in regulatory processes.	
Leveraging of enhanced capabilities and efficiency	Suite of training and consultancy services developed	Develop and promote the IAA International (IAAI)
gains to provide additional sources of revenue	to support regulators and regulated entities	training and consultancy brand.
		Increase service offering for IAAI to meet evolving needs and provide enhanced opportunities for professional development of our staff in this regard.
Provide Value for Money in the delivery of regulatory services.		Implement enhanced Management Reporting Framework.
		Continuous improvement in financial processes including annual budget processes and procurement processes.
		Robust implementation of financial policies.
Implement best practice in Corporate Governance.	Full compliance with Code of Practice and applicable laws.	Adhere to Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
	organisation and staff.	Ensure proactive review of all policies and procedures to fulfil the evolving needs of our organisation and staff.

# Section 3: Performance Monitoring

## How we will monitor performance of our strategy

We will monitor the performance of our strategy to ensure it is on track and achieving its goals. To do that we will clearly define our performance goals and regularly monitor our progress against these goals. We will use quantitative and qualitative measures that align with our strategy and implement systems to continuously track performance metrics, including for example dashboards, reports, and regular reviews. We will engage with staff and stakeholders to ensure the timely implementation of our strategy, and address any challenges faced. Based on our measured performance we will make necessary adjustments to our strategy to ensure it remains up to date, relevant and effective.

Our performance monitoring framework

We will develop metrics to include leading indicators (predictive measures) and lagging indicators (outcome measures) to monitor the performance of our strategy including the implementation of a **Balanced Scorecard (BSC)** strategic planning and management tool. The four perspectives of our balanced scorecard include:

- Financial: Cost efficiency, budget performance, profitability, resilience.
- Business Process: Digitalisation, process efficiency and productivity, procurement efficiency, oversight efficiency.
- Growth and innovation: Workforce planning, learning and development, staff competence, innovation.
- Stakeholder: Turnaround times, international performance measures, stakeholder engagement, stakeholder satisfaction.

In addition, we will monitor Safety Key Performance Indicators as specified in the State Plan for Aviation Safety (<u>www.iaa.ie/safety</u> ).

## Reporting of results

Performance is monitored on an ongoing basis at all levels in the Authority through relevant dashboard and reports. The measurement framework facilitates drill-up and drill down through the data to suit the differing needs of front-line staff, divisional managers, senior management team and IAA board. Through our data and analytics strategy, we are developing the necessary data architecture to integrate the different data streams needed to support our balanced scorecard approach.

High level public reporting on our performance against our strategy is provided via:

- The IAA Annual Report
- The IAA Annual Safety Performance Statement
- The IAA Annual Safety Performance Review