

**Irish Aviation Authority**  
The Times Building  
11–12 D’Olier Street  
Dublin 2, D02 T449,  
Ireland

T: 01-6031100

**Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann**  
Foirgneamh na hAmanna  
11–12 Sráid D’Olier  
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449,  
Éire

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ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN  
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

05/03/2026

### **Dail Question No: 70**

To ask the Minister for Transport whether the decision to introduce the recent Geozone in Cork was preceded by consultation and stakeholder engagement consistent with the commitments outlined in the National Policy Framework on Unmanned Aircraft Systems; whether a report or statement of reasons was published following that consultation; and whether he is satisfied that the decision-making process complied with principles of fair procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy O’Gorman,

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 Air Traffic Control Zone (CTR), subject to certain conditions. To ensure the safe conduct of BVLOS operations over Cork City, a temporary UGZ was established which sets out coordination procedures to be met by UAS operators to gain an entry authorisation.

The National Policy Framework on Unmanned Aircraft Systems is being led by the Department of Transport, and work has commenced on its implementation. Pending the implementation of U-space (as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/664) it is proposed, as an interim measure, to make this temporary UGZ (T2) permanent. Accordingly, the IAA is conducting a targeted consultation with 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 proposed transition from the temporary UGZ T2 structure to a permanent UGZ. The proposed permanent UGZ maintains the established lateral boundaries, vertical limits, and associated coordination procedures for UAS operators, with the aim of ensuring safe, expeditious and coordinated UAS activity in the area.

The IAA routinely puts measures in place to ensure all airspace users are not disadvantaged by a temporary UGZ. In this specific instance, pending the outcome of the consultation process for the permanent UGZ, all necessary coordination procedures have been established in order facilitate the safe use of airspace.

Sincerely

**Alec Elliott**

#### **Bord Stiúirthóirí / Board of Directors**

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Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D’Olier  
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449, Éire  
Uimhir Chláraithe: 211082. Áit Chláraithe:  
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