



An tÚdarás Inniúil um
Thorann Aerárthaí

Aircraft Noise
Competent Authority

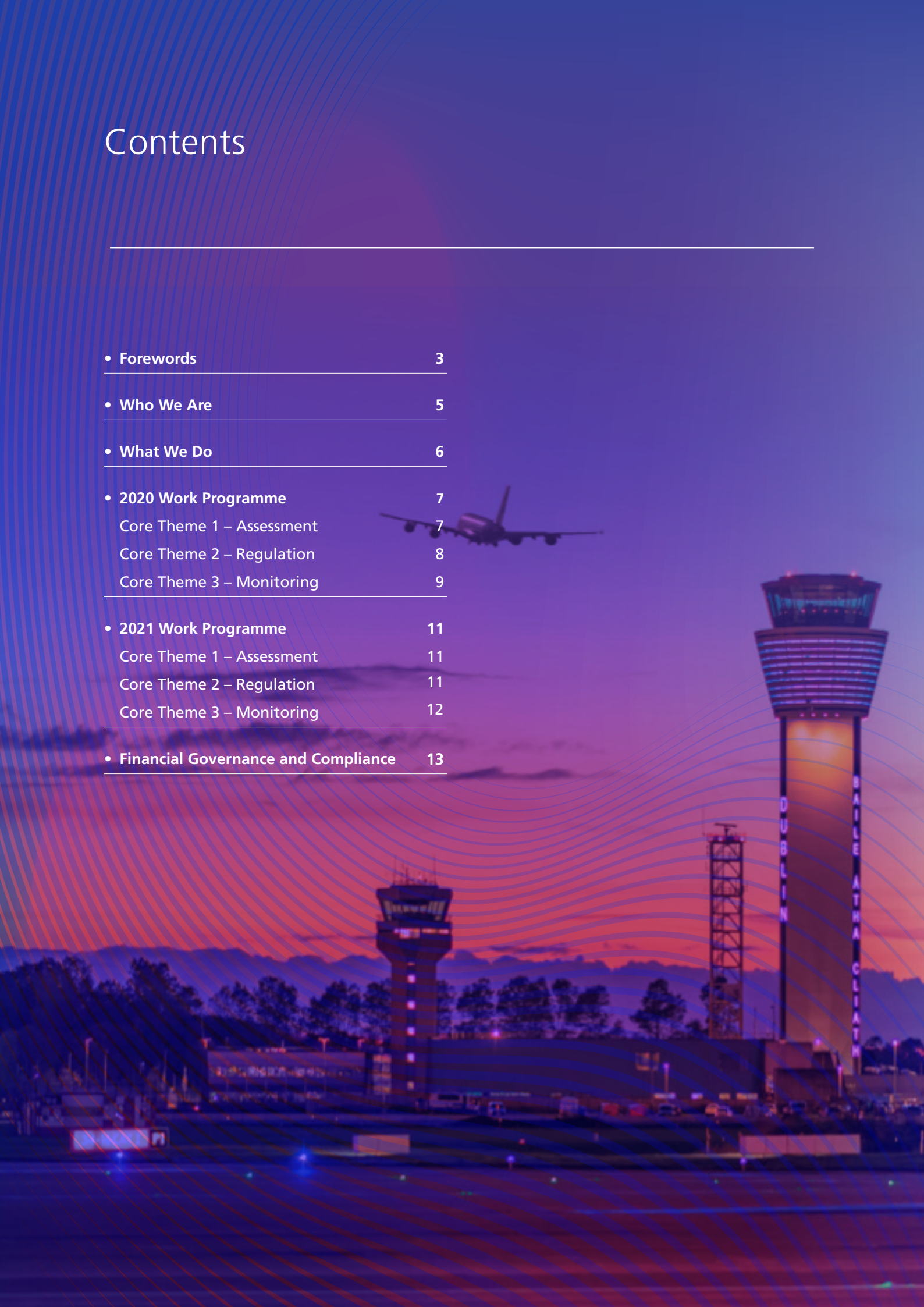
Aircraft Noise Competent Authority Annual Report 2020

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



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Foreword by the Chief Executive



The Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Act 2019 designated Fingal County Council as the Competent Authority for the purposes of aircraft noise regulation at Dublin Airport. I am pleased to present this second annual report of the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority.

Government policy on the aviation sector recognises the significant contribution that the aviation industry makes to Ireland's economic development. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the aviation sector throughout the course of 2020. The Competent Authority applies a balanced approach to aircraft noise management to ensure that the sector continues to operate in a safe, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

Following its establishment in May 2019, the Competent Authority has continued its work of assessing the impact of aircraft noise emissions at Dublin Airport and has implemented its role in monitoring compliance with measures in place to mitigate the effects of noise. However, the role of the Authority is more than just regulation or enforcement. The Authority engages with the Airport Authority and the air navigation service provider to influence the development of policies to manage and report on aircraft noise.

This report highlights the work of ANCA during 2020, the first full year of operation for the Authority. The 2020 programme of work included assessment by the Authority of 14 planning applications at Dublin Airport.

This report also provides an overview of ANCA's anticipated programme of work for 2021. I look forward to its continued engagement with the aviation industry, local communities and all interested stakeholders during 2021 as we work through the first aircraft noise assessment for Dublin Airport as required by legislation.

I would like to pay tribute to Gilbert Power who retired as ANCA Director of Service during 2020. Gilbert played a central role in establishing and leading the Competent Authority in its formative stage. On behalf of all the ANCA team, I thank him for his dedication and wish him well in his retirement. Ethna Felten has joined as ANCA's new Director of Service and I wish her well in fulfilling this important role in the period ahead.

AnnMarie Farrelly

Chief Executive

Fingal County Council, February 2021

Statement by the Director of Service



The Aircraft Noise Competent Authority (ANCA) was established as a separate and independent directorate within Fingal County Council just over one year ago.

Over the course of 2020, we reviewed fourteen planning applications for development at Dublin Airport. Each application was assessed and it was determined that one of the applications contains components that would give rise to the need for an aircraft noise assessment process as required by legislation.

Our 2021 work programme will include a full assessment of the noise climate at Dublin Airport. The process of aircraft noise regulation includes public consultation.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted operations at Dublin Airport in 2020. This had the effect of significantly decreasing the noise generated by aircraft activity and the subsequent impact of aircraft noise on the communities surrounding the airport. It is important to note, however, that this reduced level of noise due to aircraft activity will not be considered in any baseline aspects for planning applications being reviewed by the Authority.

I encourage anyone interested in the process of aircraft noise management to review the report *Aircraft Noise Mitigation at Dublin Airport* which ANCA published in August 2020. This report and other useful information relating to the process of aircraft noise regulation at Dublin Airport is available on our website.

The Competent Authority looks forward to working with all interested stakeholders in discharging its statutory functions relating to the assessment, regulation and monitoring of aircraft noise at Dublin Airport.

Ethna Felten

Director of Service

Aircraft Noise Competent Authority



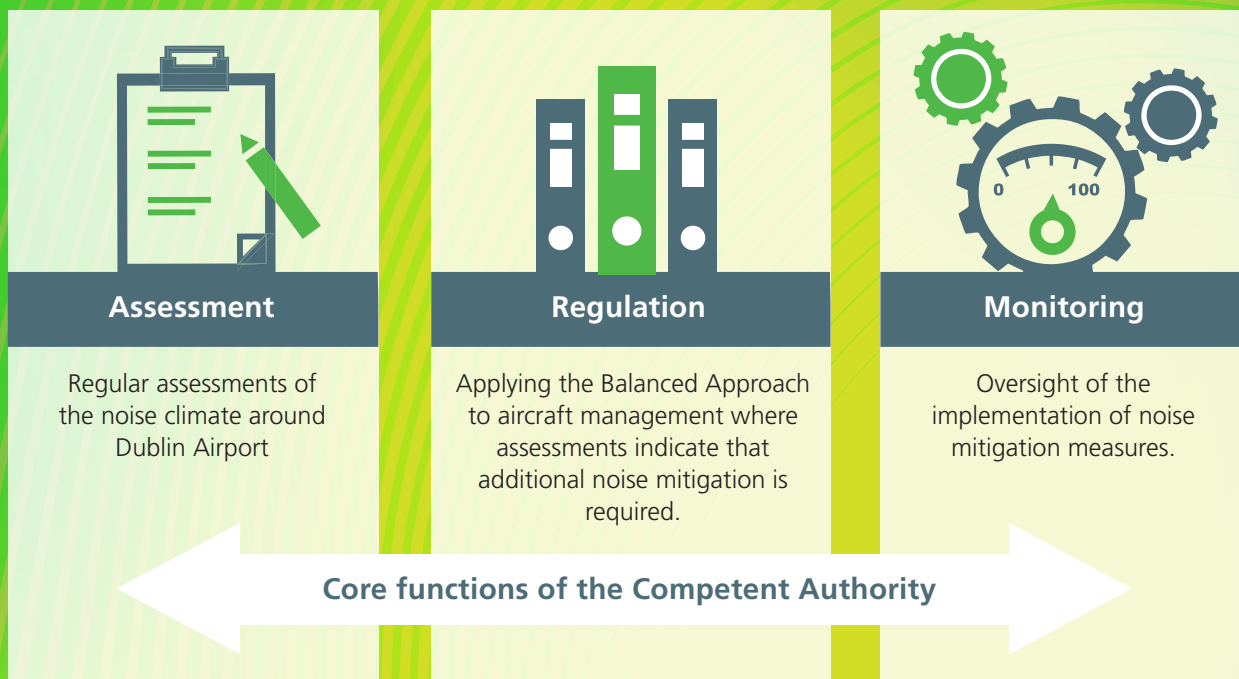
From Left to Right: Angela Dullaghan, Senior Executive Planner, Joe Mahon, Senior Engineer, Ethna Felten, Director of Service, Aideen Meagle, Administrator.

Who We Are

The statutory functions of the Competent Authority are vested in the Chief Executive of Fingal County Council. The Competent Authority is an independent directorate led by a Director of Service who is supported by a core executive team and specialist service providers.

Contracted specialist services are procured through public tender processes. This provides the ANCA team with access to national and international expertise in areas such as aviation, acoustics, planning, environment, legal, GIS mapping and communications.

This scalable operating model can be adapted to carry out the core functions of the Authority on an ongoing basis. It also responds to periodic external resource requirements to ensure that we implement our mandate to operate in a cost-effective manner.



What We Do

The Competent Authority is responsible for ensuring that noise generated by aircraft activity at Dublin Airport is assessed in accordance with EU and Irish legislation and to ensure that the Balanced Approach of the International Civil Aviation Organization is applied where such a review identifies a noise problem at the airport.

The Balanced Approach seeks to address aircraft noise problems at individual airports by achieving the maximum environmental benefit in the most cost-effective manner.

The Competent Authority has an oversight role to ensure compliance and the effective implementation of noise mitigating measures and operating restrictions at Dublin Airport. The Competent Authority also has a role in assessing eligibility for inclusion in home insulation schemes. Further information on the home insulation schemes is available on our website.

2020 Work Programme Review

Core Theme 1 - Assessment

In its first full year of operation, the Competent Authority compiled and examined data from aircraft operations at Dublin Airport to facilitate an examination of the noise situation at the airport.

Although the full impact of the coronavirus pandemic remains to be determined, the grounding of airline fleets has certainly changed the noise environment around airports in the short term and accurate forecasts for the mid to long-term noise profile remain uncertain.

The assessment of the noise situation at the airport involves an examination of the evolution of the noise climate at the airport and the surrounding community over a period of time to consider whether current or projected noise exposure constitutes a noise problem specific to the airport that needs to be addressed.

A noise objective for the airport may be established as part of an overall noise assessment which includes public consultation. A noise objective will guide future assessments to ascertain whether current noise mitigation measures are sufficient to meet their objective or whether additional control measures may be necessary.

All planning applications at Dublin Airport are referred to the Competent Authority by the Planning Authority for assessment. In assessing a planning application, ANCA must determine whether the proposals have the potential to cause a noise problem. The assessment role includes an examination of planning applications by the Competent Authority to ascertain whether they could have aircraft noise implications which require mitigation.

The Competent Authority also attends pre-planning consultations between the Planning Authority and applicants for planning applications at Dublin Airport. This is to ensure that proposed developments that have potential aircraft noise implications can have appropriate mitigation incorporated into the design at the earliest possible stage.



**In 2020, ANCA attended
10 pre-planning consultations**



**In 2020, 14 planning
applications were referred
to ANCA for assessment***

*This includes the application for a Relevant Action to amend two planning conditions attached to the North Runway.

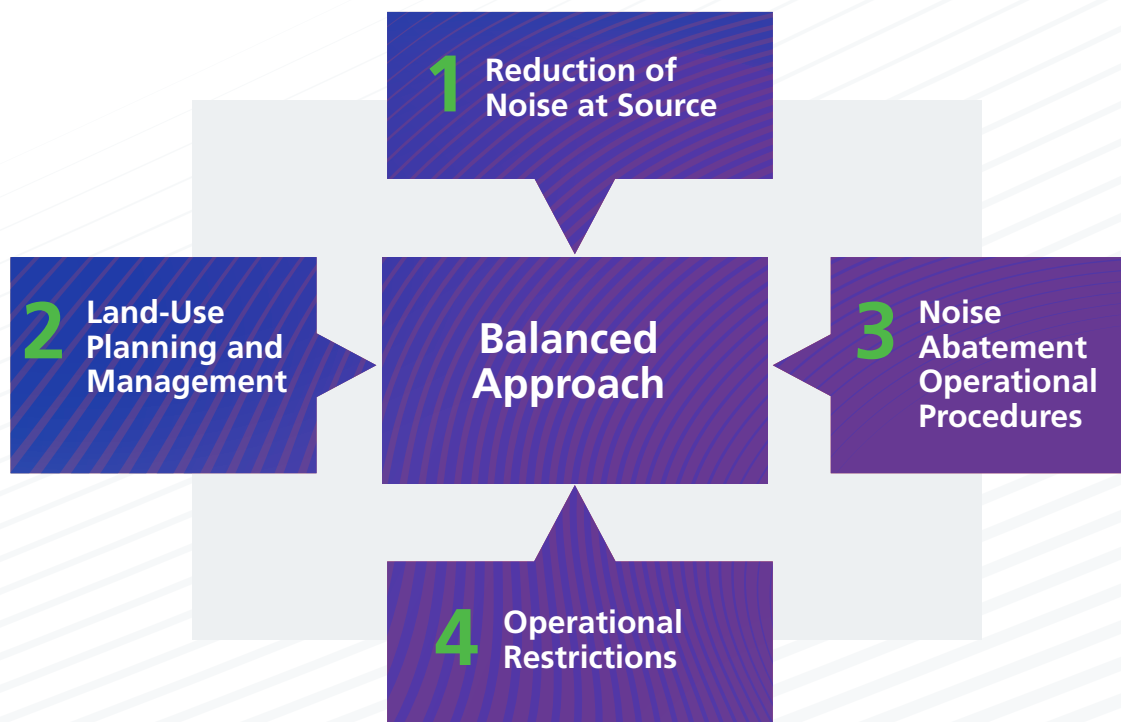
Details of these planning applications are published on the ANCA website
www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoise/aircraftnoisecompetentauthority

2020 Work Programme Review

Core Theme 2 - Regulation

Where a noise problem is identified through an assessment of the noise climate, or could potentially arise through airport development, the Competent Authority must apply the Balanced Approach of the International Civil Aviation Organization to ensure that the maximum environmental benefits can be achieved in a cost-effective and quantifiable manner.

The four principal elements of the ICAO Balanced Approach to Aircraft Noise Management are:



Applying the Balanced Approach:



2020 Work Programme Review

Core Theme 3 - Monitoring

The Airport Authority has responsibility for introducing noise mitigation measures and ensuring that they are complied with by all airport users.

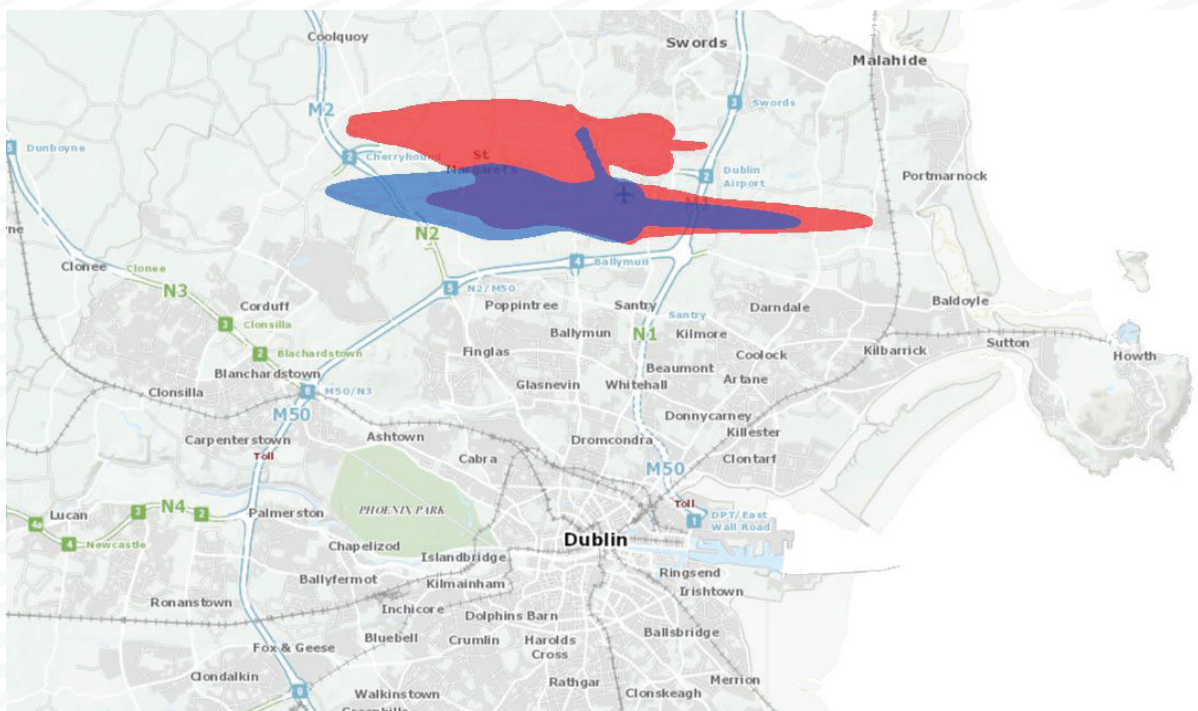
The Airport Authority must produce an annual compliance report and the Competent Authority has an associated compliance monitoring and oversight role. The airport's compliance report for 2019 aircraft operations was received by the Competent Authority during August. This report, together with the additional information requested by ANCA, is available on the ANCA website.

Review of Home Insulation Schemes

In July, the Competent Authority carried out a review of the schedule of properties identified by the Airport Authority as eligible for home insulation. Eligibility is currently determined by the area encompassed within defined noise contours. There are two home insulation schemes currently in place – one for homes most affected by current airport aircraft operations (Home Sound Insulation Programme) and one scheme associated with the grant of planning permission for the new North Runway (Residential Noise Insulation Scheme). More information on these schemes is available on the ANCA website and individual homes can be examined on the interactive map to determine whether they are currently eligible for inclusion in the schemes.

The grant of planning permission for the North Runway provides for regular review of the noise contours to ensure that forecasted noise contours are validated against actual noise when the new runway becomes operational.

There are also planning requirements for an insulation scheme for schools and a voluntary buyout scheme for certain homes within defined contour areas. More information on these schemes can be found on the websites of the Planning Authority and the Airport Authority.



Dublin Airport Noise Contours

2020 Work Programme Review

Core Theme 3 - Monitoring (Continued)

Publications

The Competent Authority published an overview report on aircraft noise mitigation during August.

The report presents examples of mitigation measures which can be used by the aviation industry to help reduce and manage aircraft noise. These measures are presented under the various pillars of the ICAO Balanced Approach. The review also outlines the range of active and passive noise mitigating measures in place at Dublin Airport and the systems employed by the Airport Authority in the management of noise. The report can be downloaded from the ANCA website.

The Competent Authority also published the Airport Authority's *Noise Mitigation Annual Compliance Report* on the ANCA website together with supplementary information requested. ANCA is committed to ensuring all available information relating to aircraft noise is made available to the community and is working with the Airport Authority to implement a community engagement tool that will present relevant live and historical noise information with other associated data.

Impact of COVID-19 on aircraft noise

The impact of COVID-19 on global and national aviation has been one of the most significant shocks ever faced by the industry. Although global air passenger traffic has always recovered from short-term upheavals, it remains to be seen what the long-term outcomes will be from COVID-19.

Some airlines have already begun the process of retiring older aircraft that have higher noise and carbon emissions. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the largest aircraft were being withdrawn from service. This process may now be accelerated.



Dublin Airport

Early indications suggest that newer and smaller aircraft will play a more significant role in aviation with a corresponding reduction in noise emissions from flight operations. Modern aircraft have become significantly quieter over the past 50 years and, although the most significant improvements in engine technology took place between the late 1960s and the late 1990s, fleet conversions to latest-generation aircraft will improve the overall noise climate around airports over time. The oldest generations of aircraft are prohibited from operating at EU airports.

2021 Work Programme

Core Theme 1 - Assessment

An application to alter planning conditions associated with operating restrictions at Dublin Airport was made by the Airport Authority to Fingal County Council's Planning Department during December 2020.

In fulfilling its statutory remit, the Competent Authority has commenced an assessment of the noise situation at Dublin Airport. ANCA has access to specialist national and international expertise in aviation, acoustics, environment, and planning, in the performance of its duties.

Core Theme 2 - Regulation

Where a noise problem or potential noise problem at the airport is identified, ANCA will ensure that the ICAO Balanced Approach to Aircraft Noise Management is applied. Consideration for the need for a noise abatement objective will take place within the process of an overall assessment of the aircraft noise environment at the airport.

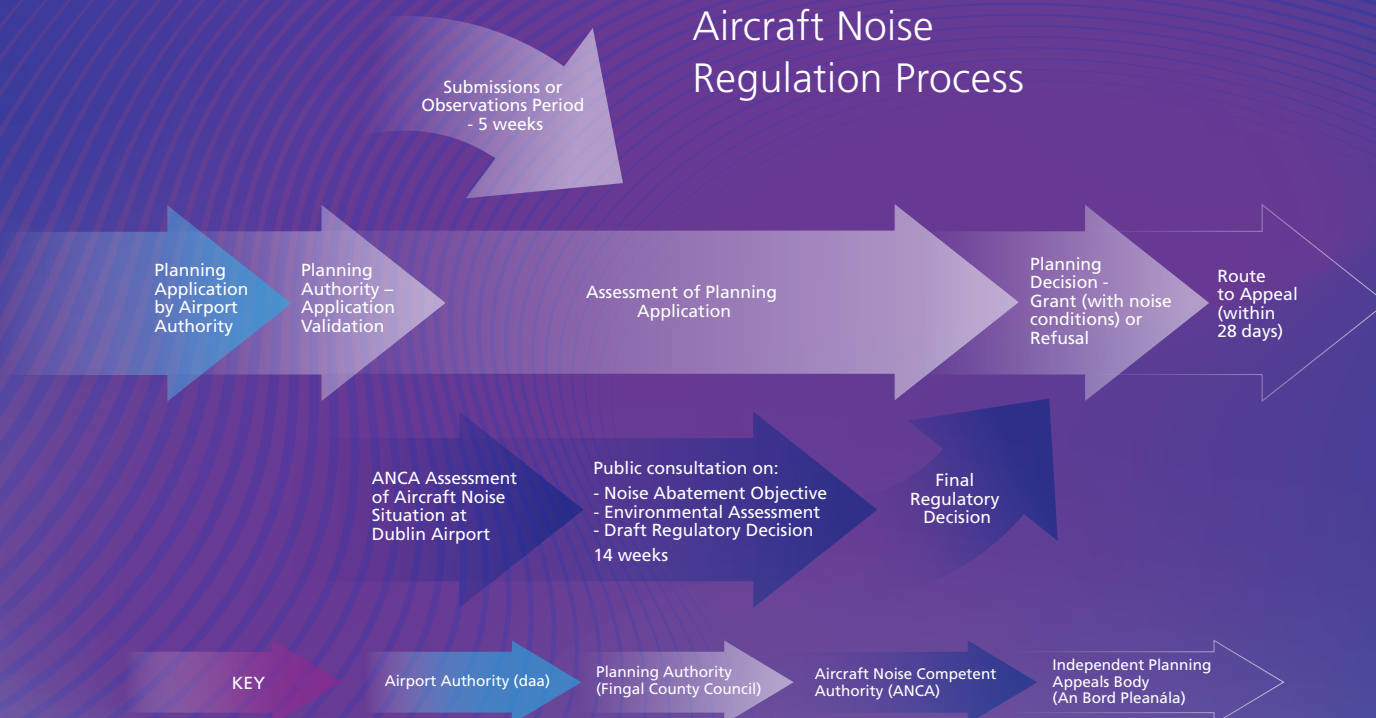
Where a noise abatement objective is required at the airport, ANCA's remit is extended to include a review of the effectiveness of the noise mitigation measures and operating restrictions (if any) on achieving the noise abatement objective.

As part of its assessment, the Competent Authority will hold a 14-week public consultation inviting feedback on the noise abatement objective, the environmental assessment and the draft regulatory decision. All feedback provided will be considered by ANCA prior to the making of a final regulatory decision. Further information on the public consultation will be announced on our website and in media outlets.

A final regulatory decision, once made, will be issued to the Planning Authority and will inform its decision with respect to the outcome of the planning process.

The governing legislation facilitates access to appeal the decision of the Planning Authority to An Bord Pleanála.

Aircraft Noise Regulation Process



Core Theme 3 – Monitoring

The Competent Authority will continue its work with the Airport Authority during 2021 to achieve the implementation of best practice in noise mitigation and community reporting of noise including:

- Making historical and live information from noise measuring terminals available on the internet;
- Increasing the number of noise measuring terminals in the community;
- Measuring and publishing compliance data for noise mitigation measures in place at the airport;
- Providing improved access to information relating aircraft operations to noise contours;
- Supporting the provision of web-based community engagement tools to facilitate ease of engagement on specific aircraft events causing annoyance.

Access to information

The Competent Authority is committed to carrying out its work in an open and transparent manner. The Authority is accountable for its decisions and believes that easy access to relevant information is the best way to facilitate informed debate around the impact of aircraft noise emissions.

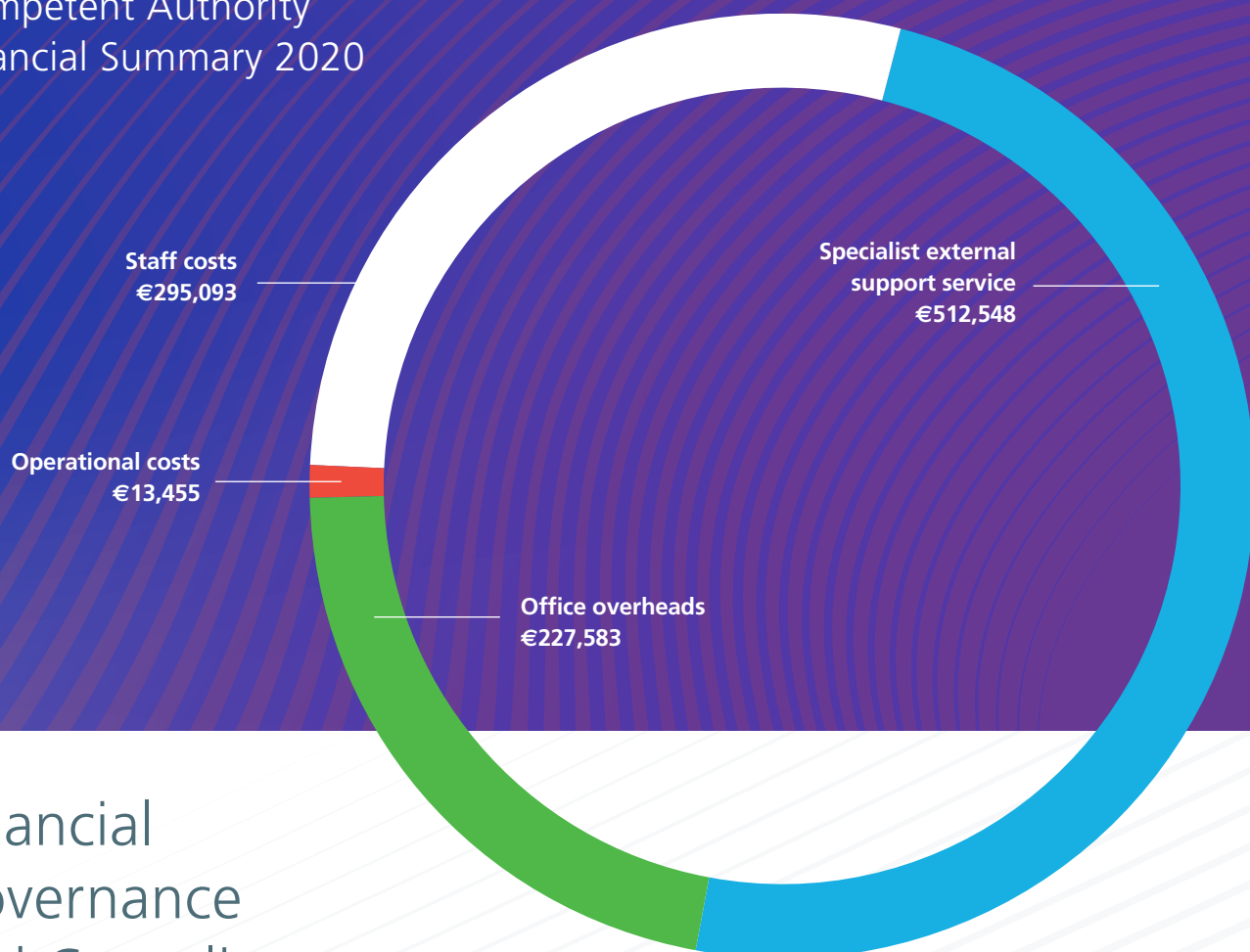
Our commitment is to publish useful information on the ANCA website (www.fingal.ie/aircraftnoiseca) and to continue to develop and add functionality to inform stakeholders about the work of the Authority and its decisions.

We are aware that much of our work involves the use of technical and industry-specific terminology, but we will try to avoid unnecessary use of these terms and will explain their meaning where their use is necessary.

Our website also contains publications commissioned or prepared by ANCA together with statutory noise mitigation compliance reports prepared by the Airport Authority. ANCA publishes latest developments on the news section of the website and through the Twitter accounts @aircraftnoiseca and @Fingalcoco.

Many of our regulatory processes include public consultation to facilitate the inclusion and consideration of all viewpoints. ANCA will ensure that all our consultations are conducted in an open and transparent manner and will have regard to all points of view without bias.

Competent Authority Financial Summary 2020



Financial Governance and Compliance

Financial Summary

The Competent Authority is required by legislation to operate in a cost-effective manner and the financial accounts of ANCA are subject to independent audit. The accounts of the Authority were included in the audit of the Annual Financial Statement of Fingal County Council by the Local Government Audit Service during 2020.

The 2019 Act requires the Airport Authority to pay a monthly, biannual or annual charge in respect of the costs incurred or reasonably expected to be incurred by the Competent Authority in the performance of its functions.

The amount of the airport levy is prescribed by regulation. All regulations made by ANCA under Section 5 of the 2019 Act can be viewed on our website.

The work of the Authority requires input on an intermittent basis from industry specialists in the areas of economics, aviation, acoustics, and legal. ANCA is supported by external specialist service providers that were procured through public tender processes. Subject matter experts work on specific projects or contribute to decision-making and policy-making in the Authority.

Compliance Statement

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 3(9)(c) of the Aircraft Noise (Dublin Airport) Regulation Act 2019.



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**Aircraft Noise
Competent Authority**

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