

The Irish Airline Pilots Association (IALPA) Safety and Technical committee welcome the opportunity to comment on the Governments Draft NRA.

Introduction:

As an Island nation air access to continental Europe and Global markets is vital for Ireland's future. State Airports and sea ports are the gateways for goods and visitors. Ensuring that they operate to maximum efficiency is vital for economic growth.

Consequently any threat to these key State assets should be specifically considered in the NRA 2018 document under Environmental (Climate change) and Strategic Infrastructure assets. However our specific submission relates to Air Access.

Air Access Gateway to Ireland.

Dublin Airport is the national gateway to Ireland. In order to function as a gateway the runway orientation layout must permit safe aircraft operations. Therefore Airport resilience in adverse/severe wind conditions must be subject to continuous review. The frequency and period of time during which high wind/storm conditions occur has increased over the last decade. To ensure that air traffic is subject to the least amount of disruption it is necessary to ensure that a runway is available whose direction is aligned with that of strong and extreme wind.

Climate change is real and it's affecting Ireland. Consequently, the runway orientation system at all three state airports must be reviewed / reassessed. The last such review of runway orientations, particularly at Dublin Airport, was in the 1960's !

IALPA Safety and Technical call on the government to fund a study, extrapolating Met Eireann data and thereafter seek expert advice in order to update the future runway orientation system at all state Airports.

Yours sincerely,

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Director Safety & Technical.