

Tim Johnson
Director – Consumer & Markets
Civil Aviation Authority
Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf
London EH14 4HD

By email: economicregulation@caa.co.uk

12 August 2026

Dear Tim,

Aer Lingus response to CAA CAP3286 – Heathrow's Future Regulatory Framework

Aer Lingus welcomes the CAA's work on CAP3286 and supports the positions put forward by IAG, S. A. and through the Heathrow Reimagined submission.

For Aer Lingus, Heathrow plays an important role in connecting passengers between Ireland, the UK and destinations across the wider global network. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Maintaining that connectivity depends not only on airport capacity, but on ensuring that the cost of using Heathrow remains commercially viable and sustainable for airlines and passengers.

We therefore strongly support the CAA's focus on affordability and efficiency. Expansion cannot be considered successful simply because additional infrastructure is delivered. It must be delivered at a cost that supports airline investment, connectivity and passenger choice. Greater competition has a central role to play in achieving the necessary development and successful operation of the future airport infrastructure. We support the CAA developing the regulatory arrangements necessary to enable direct competition before key planning and investment decisions become fixed. Keeping competitive options genuinely open creates stronger incentives for efficient delivery and provides greater protection for consumers.

Equally, strengthened capital governance must be introduced without unnecessary delay. The scale of potential expenditure at Heathrow makes effective scrutiny and accountability particularly important, and the new arrangements need to apply consistently rather than creating different regimes for different categories of investment.

Aer Lingus encourages the CAA to maintain momentum and to translate its analysis into practical reform. The objective of which is a Heathrow framework that protects consumers, promotes efficiency and enables airlines to continue to confidently invest in valuable connectivity.

Yours sincerely,

Marta Drozd

Marta Drozd
Airports Commercial Manager