

Thank you for your time

My name is John Fitzgerald from Wild Way Tours and I wish to express my views in relation to the situation regarding air flights to the regions like Cork and Shannon. I drive tourists on private tours and they mention how busy Dublin is, too busy. The over saturation/development of Dublin is harming both Dublin and Ireland. The recent 'scandal' of the Norwegian Airlines 'trojan horse' which was supposed to be all about flights into Cork is confirmation of this DAA agenda. Enda Kenny among others were duped into encouraging the controversial flights into Cork and in the end it seems to be all about Dublin and their hunt for a third terminal and runway.

i.e Alan Kelly's Article on the Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/dublin-airports-monopoly-is-relentless-and-going-unchecked>.

The fact that 12 Norwegian flights are now going into Dublin and only 3 into Cork and 4 into Shannon is unfair to Cork and brand Ireland. It completely takes the gloss and attractiveness off of the Cork flights. I have heard that the DAA saddled the 'new' terminal in Cork with debt, thus making landing fees into Cork higher. This makes it more expensive to fly into/out of Cork for passengers and airlines. Why not to hand the old Cork terminal over to Ryanair?

We need independence from the DAA as a matter of urgency as it is causing Cork airport to stagnate. Recent 'strong' growth figures come from a very low measuring point. The fact is that the nation's second city is being underutilised and having our airport controlled by a competing airport is a joke.

I recently was in Cork airport and in the shop there I bought the *Irish Independent* and read the headline on the 'Irish Independent' - "Dublin is strangling Ireland"

I read this aloud to the shop keeper and he responded to me by saying

"Do you know how many flights are coming in here today?"

I said no?

He said "12!"

Hardly worth his while opening the shop at all in my mind.

**Failte Ireland have warned in recent days that Dublin hotel availability is beyond overcapacity. How will yet more flights into a creaking infrastructure help Ireland?
Cork is the gate way to the Southwest, Wild Atlantic Way etc, Blarney, Kinsale, Killarney, Waterford etc. Cork is crying out for business and it will lead to a more enjoyable tourist product for everyone. A pressure release valve to more evenly distribute business and tourism into the south.**

Thank you

John

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