

Views and perspectives of Fingal Communities

regarding the operations and development of Dublin Airport

February 2026

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Introduction

Welcome to the report of the fourth independent research study commissioned by daa.

Building on the Fingal Sentiment Report published in May 2025, daa has produced their second “Pulse”¹ report to continue to gather the views and perspectives of Fingal constituents regarding the operations and development of Dublin Airport.

The full report in May 2025 recorded N=1,011 responses. The first Pulse survey, conducted in September 2025, recorded N=520 responses. This Pulse survey, conducted in December 2025, recorded N= 523 responses. In all instances, the achieved sample aligns with the CSO prescribed quotas for age, gender and social class. This report presents December pulse results and examines key trend developments over 2025.

The findings from this research will complement feedback gathered through daa’s existing community engagement channels, which include local groups and community leaders.

¹ “Pulse” Report refers to a smaller demographic who completed a shorter questionnaire than previous reports, though each demographic equally represents the Fingal constituency based on age, gender and social class.



Objectives



Assess

Assess attitudes towards Dublin Airport's presence in the community.



Understand

Understand positive and negative aspects of the relationship between Fingal constituents and Dublin Airport.



Examine

Examine how specific factors affect the Fingal community, for example noise levels.



Sentiment

Determine emotional sentiment towards the airport.



Review

Review whether specific residential areas have an influence on these attitudes. Review whether attitudes differ dependent on residential area and perceived impact.



Impact

Assess the impact and awareness of community and environmental initiatives undertaken by Dublin Airport.

The survey results show that Dublin Airport plays a positive and valued role in the Fingal area, underscoring the strong connection and mutually beneficial relationship between the two. At the same time, the findings also highlight the range of impacts associated with living close to a major international airport, with certain residents' feedback reflecting both the benefits and challenges of this proximity.

Methodology

Red C:

The survey design, fieldwork and analysis were undertaken by RED C research. RED C was founded in 2003 and has become the fastest growing full-service research company in Ireland and one of the top 120 globally. In 2016, they launched RED C Research UK and in 2023 added Relish Research to the group. RED C are part of the Business Post Group.

Survey Approach:

This research was carried out through a series of face-to-face interviews, conducted by trained RED C interviewers. These interviews were recorded on CAPI tablet devices and interviews were conducted door-to-door within the specified catchment areas. Each interviewer was equipped with a map of the area and comprehensive interviewer instructions giving a breakdown of each question within the questionnaire.

Selection of Survey Area:

Drawing on 2022 CSO data, interviews were proportionally distributed across the Areas and District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) within the county to ensure the sample was reflective of the population within Fingal County. Quotas were also applied to key demographics – including age, gender, and social grade – in line with the latest CSO figures.

Setting Sample Size:

523 interviews were carried out among adults aged over 18 who are resident in Fingal. Research was completed between the 17th of November and the 14th of December 2025. Again, quotas were set in line with the prescribed CSO figures for the area.

Electoral Area:

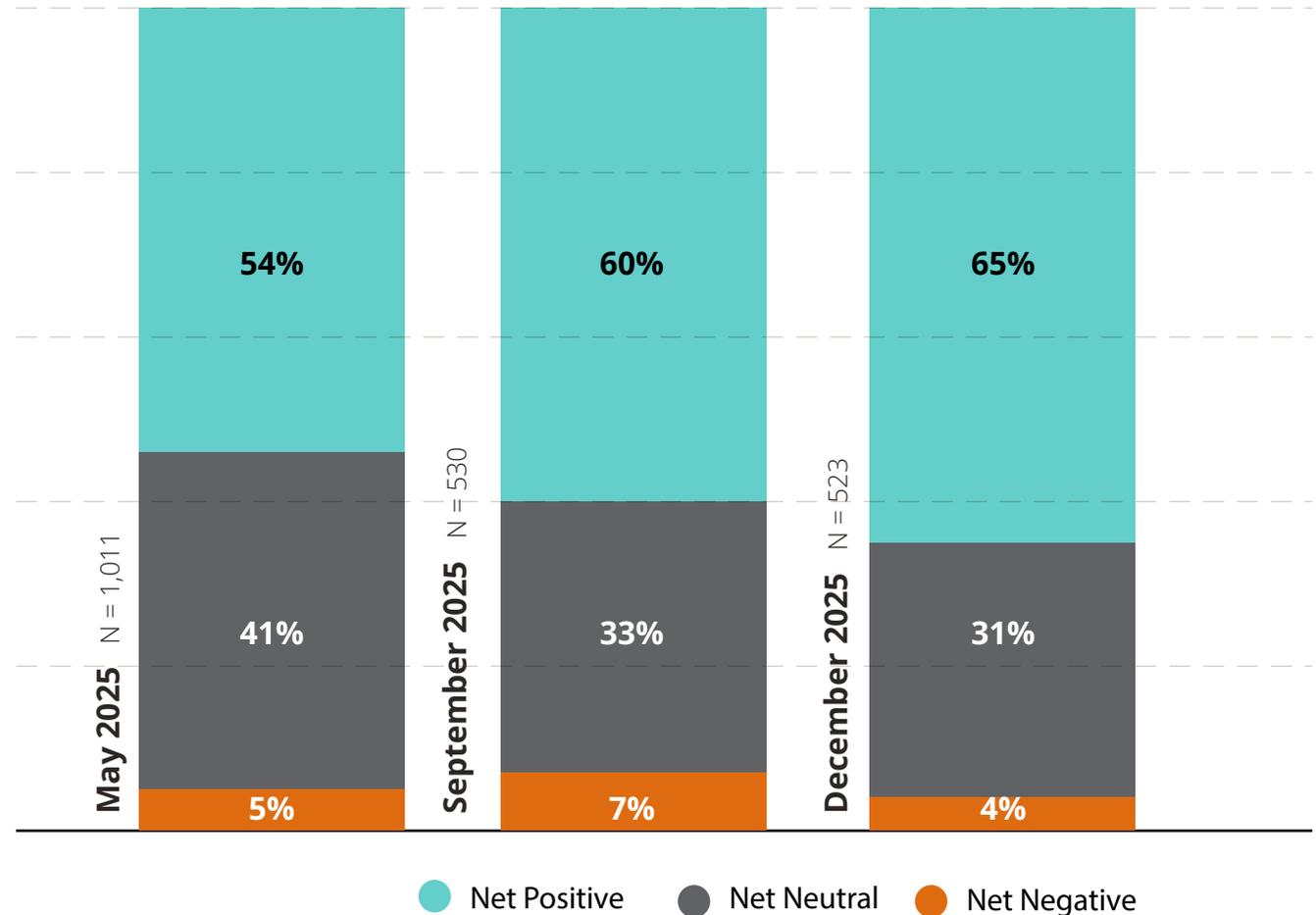
Balbriggan	Balbriggan, Holmpatrick, Skerries
Blanch-Mulhuddart¹ / Ongar / Castleknock	Blanchardstown, Dubber, The Ward, Kilsallaghan, Castleknock
Howth-Malahide	Baldoyle, Howth, Kinsaley, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton
Rush-Lusk	Ballyboghill, Balscadden, Clonmethan, Garristown, Hollywood, Donabate, Lusk, Rush
Swords	Airport, Turnapin & Balgriffin, Swords

1 Includes St Margeret's and The Ward

Sentiment

Q: Thinking of Dublin Airport. Using a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very negative and 10 is very positive, how do you feel about Dublin Airport in regard to their impact on your local area?

There is continued growth in positive sentiment towards Dublin Airport since May with 65% providing a high score of 8-10, which is a positive increase (+5%) since September. With this evolution in sentiment over time the share of neutral responses (rated between 4-7) is 33% and negatives (rated between 1-3) is 4% which is a significant decrease since September. It is also worth highlighting that over a quarter of respondents (27%) gave a 10.

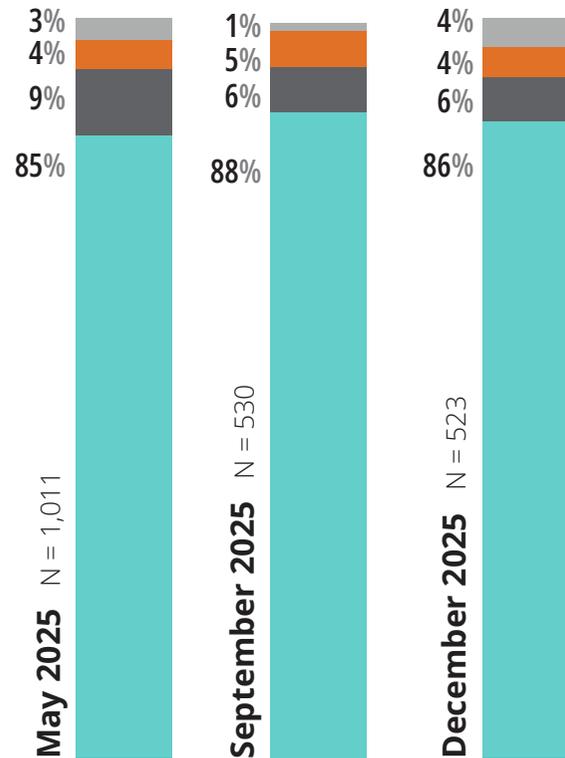


Dublin Airport's Role in the Economy

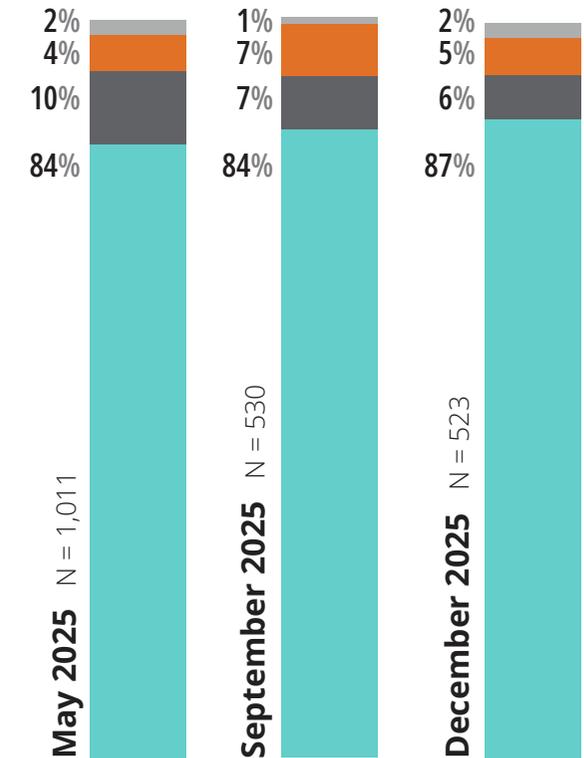
Q: I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Throughout the year we have received strongly positive responses to questions about Dublin Airport's contribution to the local economy. More than 85% of respondents in both measures agree that the airport drives job creation and economic growth, reflecting the strong economic interdependencies between the Fingal community and Dublin Airport. Responses to both questions remain steady across the three surveys in 2025. Though both questions saw an increase or decrease of a couple of percent, neither change is statistically significant.

“ Dublin Airport Fuels Job Growth in the Locality



“ Having Dublin Airport in our community fuels economic development



● Net Agree ● Neither ● Net Disagree ● Don't know

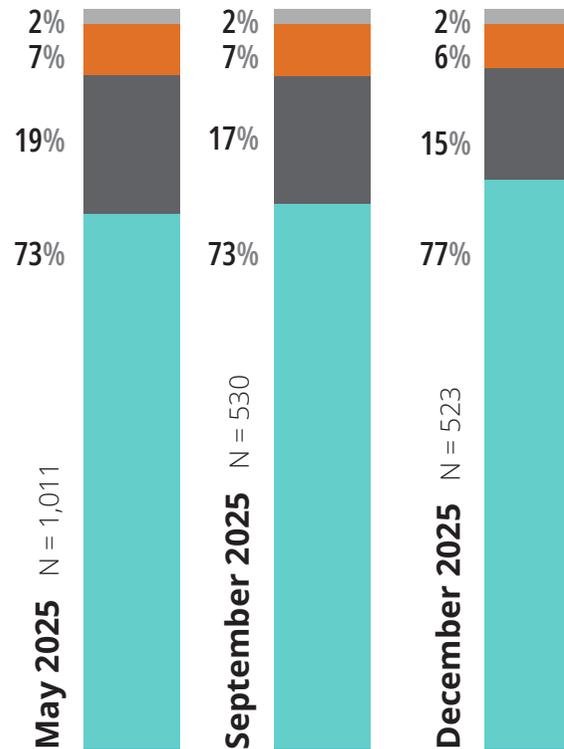
Dublin Airport's role in the Fingal Community

Q: I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

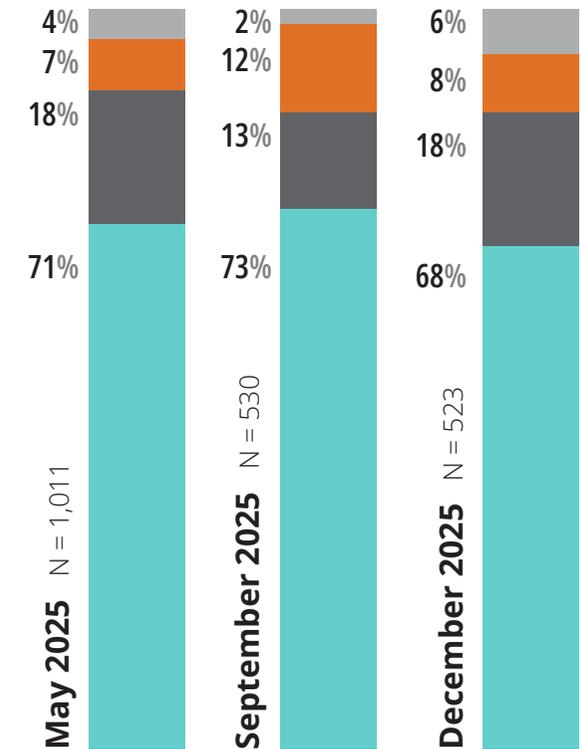
Within the local community, respondents remain positive about the role Dublin Airport plays, with 77% agreeing that it does more good than harm and 68% viewing Dublin Airport as a good corporate citizen.

There have been no significant changes in the share of respondents who disagree with the statement that Dublin Airport does more good than harm. The share of those who disagreed with Dublin Airport being a good corporate citizen has decreased marginally returning to its normal trend in May.

On balance Dublin Airport does more good than harm in the local community



Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen



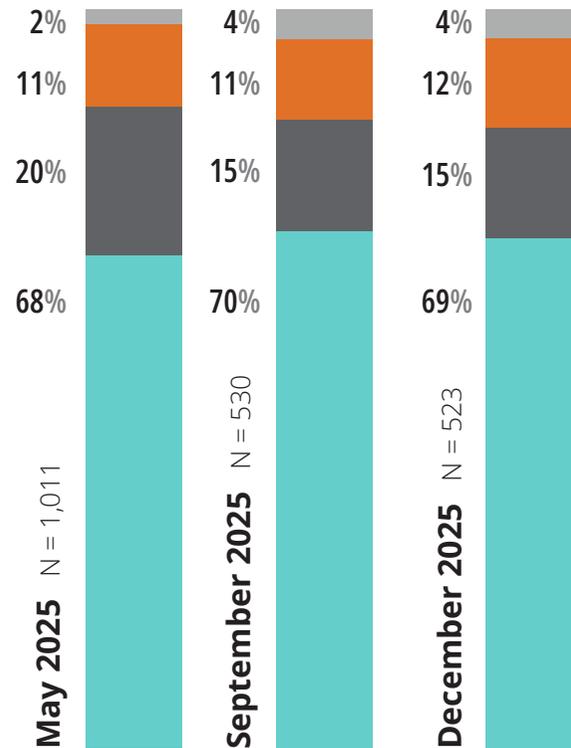
● Net Agree ● Neither ● Net Disagree ● Don't know

Dublin Airport in the local community

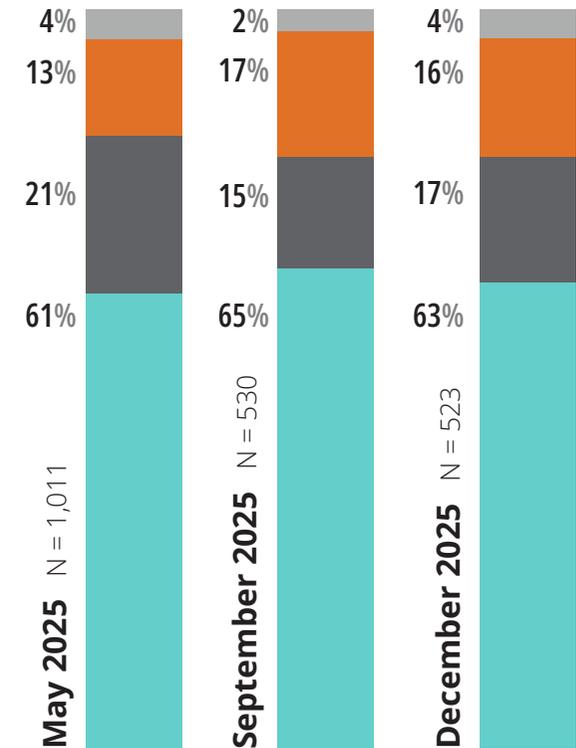
Q: I will read out a list of things that people have said about Dublin Airport. For each one I read out, please can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with that statement.

Fingal County residents continue to view Dublin Airport as a trustworthy presence, with 69% agreeing with this statement. In addition, 63% of those interviewed believe that Dublin Airport is helping to improve quality of life in the local community. While these are strong sentiment scores, they also indicate a degree of uncertainty and some perceived negative effects of living close to a major airport. This highlights that, despite the positive overall picture, further work is needed to strengthen understanding of and confidence in Dublin Airport’s contributions.

“ Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour



“ Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the local community



● Net Agree ● Neither ● Net Disagree ● Don't know

Detailed results across Fingal

“ Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the locality

86% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	95%	91%	93%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	80%	84%	80%
Howth-Malahide	83%	83%	89%
Rush-Lusk	87%	98%	89%
Swords	90%	91%	89%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

“ Having Dublin Airport in our community fuels economic development

87% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	91%	85%	95%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	80%	84%	80%
Howth-Malahide	83%	83%	89%
Rush-Lusk	87%	98%	89%
Swords	90%	91%	89%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

Communities aligned on positive economic impact

Both questions received an overall positive response with varied agreement levels across locations. While all these locations fall under the Fingal County constituency, factors such as proximity to the airport, access to community funding and supports, and the impact of noise are likely to influence the responses in each location. A notable increase was seen in the responses from Rush-Lusk in September 2025 versus May 2025, at 98% (+11%) agreement that Dublin Airport fuels job growth in the locality, and 96% (+13%) agreement that Dublin Airport fuels economic development. However, in the December Pulse agreement levels have stabilised to 89% and 86% respectively.

Community

“On balance Dublin Airport does more good than harm for the local community

77% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	83%	73%	84%
Blanch- Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	68%	74%	76%
Howth-Malahide	74%	75%	69%
Rush-Lusk	72%	82%	78%
Swords	76%	62%	83%

May: N= 1,011 **Sep:** N=520 **Dec:** N=523

Howth-Malahide recorded the lowest level of agreement, though still a majority, at 69%. Swords showed the highest agreement since May at 83% reflecting a strong recovery from the dip seen in the last wave (+21% from September).

There is only slight variation in scores between areas

“ Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen

68% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	80%	85%	68%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	68%	70%	73%
Howth-Malahide	71%	60%	50%
Rush-Lusk	65%	89%	75%
Swords	77%	76%	71%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

“ Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life in the community

63% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	74%	81%	80%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	59%	64%	62%
Howth-Malahide	49%	44%	46%
Rush-Lusk	59%	85%	74%
Swords	71%	63%	62%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

Overall, just under 70% of Fingal residents believe that Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen, while over 60% overall believe that Dublin Airport is helping to improve the quality of life within the community.

Though the shift in the overall score (-2%) is negligible, in December, two areas saw statistically significant dips in response to the statement regarding Dublin Airport as a good corporate citizen, with Rush-Lusk seeing a dip of 14% and Balbriggan 17% since September. It should be noted that in the case of Rush-Lusk this dip comes off the back of a similar jump in agreement, in September.

In response to the question on whether Dublin Airport is a good corporate citizen, Howth-Malahide shows a soft downward trend. While these dips are not statistically significant, the pattern is notable and suggests this area should be monitored over time.

The question on quality of life in the community saw a spike in positive responses from Rush-Lusk in September but no other area reported a statistically significant change in opinion in 2025.

Footnote: When analysing data by areas within Fingal it is important to note that sample bases within each area are small and more sensitive to changes resulting in limited reliability of the trend analysis.

Sentiment broken down by area

“Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour

69% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	84%	62%	81%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	62%	70%	68%
Howth-Malahide	53%	62%	55%
Rush-Lusk	60%	83%	74%
Swords	77%	75%	74%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

“Dublin Airport does as little as they can for the community

30% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	47%	34%	32%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	29%	28%	32%
Howth-Malahide	30%	22%	26%
Rush-Lusk	45%	27%	18%
Swords	24%	27%	36%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

On a total level, 69% agreed with the statement that Dublin Airport is a trustworthy neighbour, with a significant increase of positive perception from Balbriggan (+19%), compared to the last pulse after recovering from a drop in scores in September.

In contrast to the positive sentiment question, the results for the negatively framed statement that Dublin Airport does as little as it can for the community showed 30% agreement. The highest level of agreement with this statement was among Swords, at 36%. However, Rush-Lusk has dropped from 45% agreeing in May, to 27% in September to land at only 18% of respondents agreeing with the negative statement in the December Pulse. This improvement in negative sentiment is encouraging and we hope to see similar progress reflected across other areas of the community.

Communication between Fingal residents and Dublin Airport

“Dublin Airport is open and transparent

50% overall agree (December)

NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	52%	50%	57%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	48%	46%	50%
Howth-Malahide	40%	50%	33%
Rush-Lusk	52%	39%	61%
Swords	51%	55%	53%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

The topic with the lowest public perception is communication, making it a key focus area for improvement. Respondents were asked questions about Dublin Airport’s openness, responsiveness, honesty and ability to communicate clearly to the public about issues affecting the local community. Despite increases in scores between the May and September reports, December saw a dip. This could be correlated to Dublin Airport’s post-summer decreased schedule and comparatively less media coverage compared to summer’s passenger cap discussions.

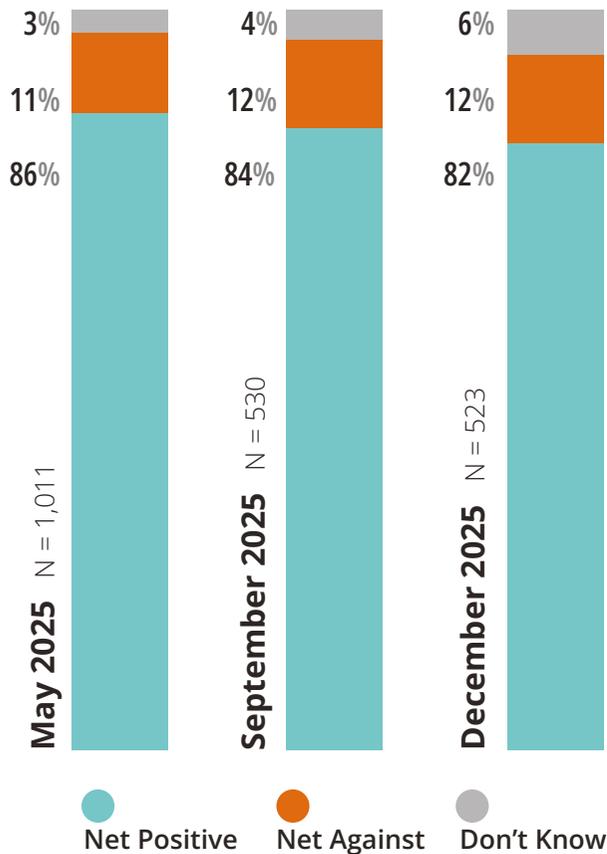
There is some variation in levels of agreement in different areas. On average, 50% agree that ‘Dublin Airport is open and transparent’, with the highest level of agreement in Rush-Lusk at 61% (up from 39%) and the lowest level of agreement in Howth-Malahide at 33% (down from 50%).

Footnote: When analysing data by areas within Fingal it is important to note that sample bases within each area are small and more sensitive to changes resulting in limited reliability of the trend analysis.

Public Perception of further development in Dublin Airport

“To what extent do you support or are you against the further development at Dublin Airport?”

82% overall support (December)



NET Agree:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	82%	87%	80%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	90%	83%	81%
Howth-Malahide	79%	77%	85%
Rush-Lusk	79%	82%	88%
Swords	89%	89%	80%

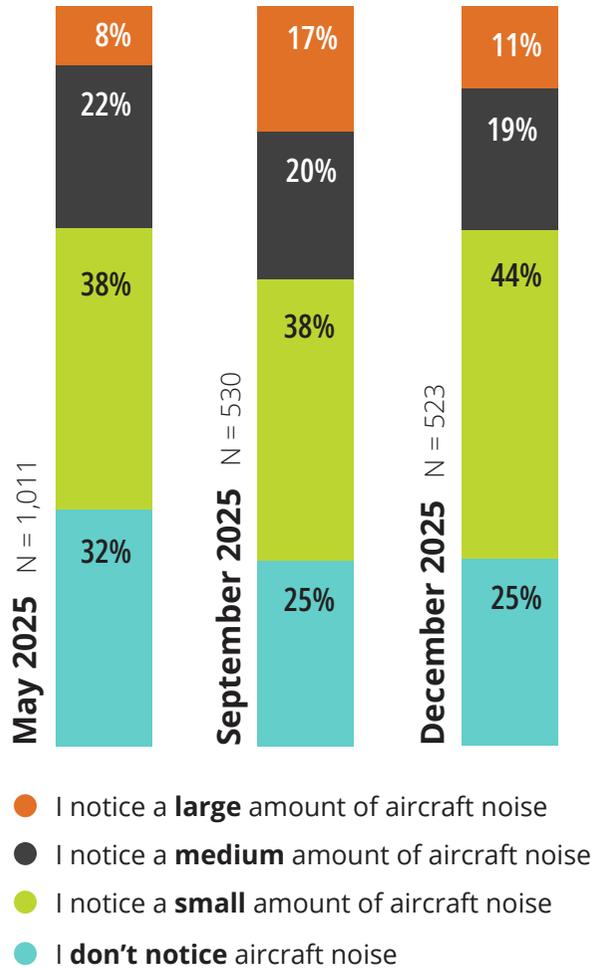
May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

A significant 82% of residents support the development of Dublin Airport, unchanged from the previous period. By location, results vary insignificantly, with support of development ranging from 80-88% across areas.

Footnote: When analysing data by areas within Fingal it is important to note that sample bases within each area are small and more sensitive to changes resulting in limited reliability of the trend analysis.

Research investigated the impact of noise effects

NET: Any Noise:



NET: Notice Any Noise:

	May 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Balbriggan	67%	69%	85%
Blanch-Mulhuddart / Ongar / Castleknock	59%	66%	69%
Howth-Malahide	86%	83%	86%
Rush-Lusk	74%	82%	70%
Swords	68%	86%	75%

May: N= 1,011 Sep: N=520 Dec: N=523

After an increase (+7%) from May to September, there was no change in the percentage experiencing noise from September to December, it remained at 75%, however there was a decline (-6%) in the proportion claiming to hear a large amount of noise. The number of people that did not notice any noise stayed the same (25%).

Howth-Malahide has consistently reported the highest or second highest proportion of people experiencing noise. Balbriggan saw the greatest increase from 69% in September to 85% in December in those who noticed any noise. Rush-Lusk saw the greatest decrease with 82% noticing noise in September to 70% in December.

Compared to May, in September Swords recorded the greatest increase (+18%), making it the area most impacted in September at 86% noticing noise. However, by December this figure had eased to 75% bringing Swords back in line with the overall average and indicating a return to more typical noise-perception levels.

Footnote: When analysing data by areas within Fingal it is important to note that sample bases within each area are small and more sensitive to changes resulting in limited reliability of the trend analysis.

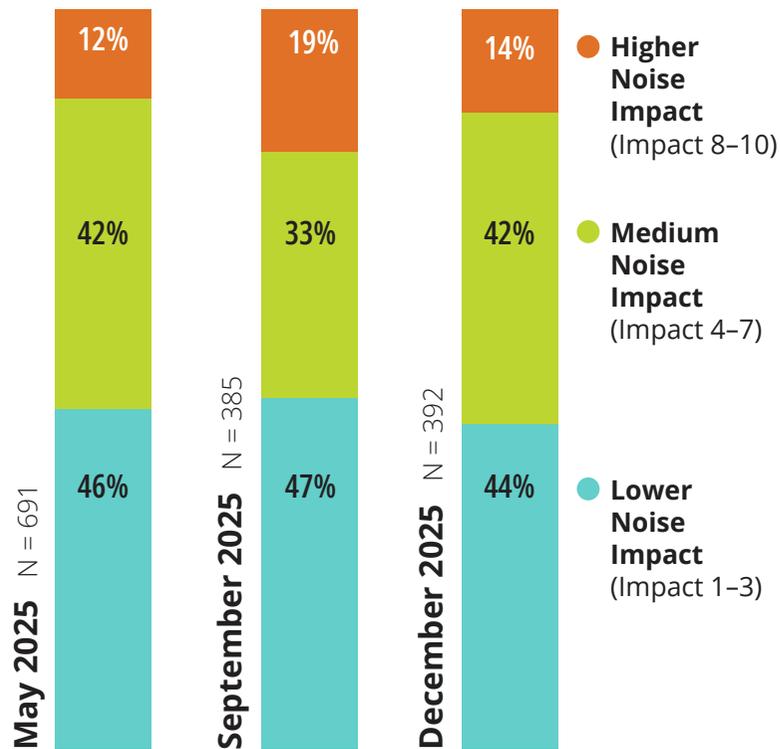
Noise Effects

Amongst the 75% who notice noise, 1 in 7 (14%) claim it to be high noise impact – while the majority agree it is medium to low. Those reporting higher impact noise saw a curve that peaked over summer with 12% in May, increasing to 19% in September and down to 14% in December, reflecting the end of the busy summer season in Dublin Airport and decreased number of flights in autumn/winter.

While the overall sentiment surrounding Dublin Airport is strong at 65% (NET Positive), those who are highly impacted by noise have a lower sentiment at 44% (NET Positive). It is essential to note here that due to the small sample size of those highly impacted by noise, N=59, these results must be treated with caution.

However, it should be noted that even for those affected by noise, 75% of respondents (N=392), the majority of Fingal residents remain in support of further development at Dublin Airport. From those residents who are affected by noise, 51% would support further development at Dublin Airport, while 38% would not support further development and 12% remain undecided.

Fingal residents who noticed any noise



Footnote: When analysing data by areas within Fingal it is important to note that sample bases within each area are small and more sensitive to changes resulting in limited reliability of the trend analysis.

Conclusions | Dublin Airport Lifts Us All

Overall, this report demonstrates that residents of Fingal see Dublin Airport as playing a vital role in the economy and community, with strong support for further development. With 82% of Fingal residents supporting further development of Dublin Airport, this is a strong endorsement of our place within the Fingal community, and this endorsement can be further strengthened through consistent, transparent communication, and engagement with local Fingal residents.

Dublin Airport continues to hold a broadly positive and stabilising position within the Fingal community, with this research showing strong support across economic, and social measures. Residents consistently recognise the airport's contribution to local prosperity, with more than 85% agreeing it fuels job creation and economic development, and sentiment toward the airport's overall impact remaining firmly positive. Trust also remains strong, with 69% viewing the airport as a trustworthy presence and 63% believing it helps improve quality of life.

Across Fingal, most areas show steady or improving attitudes, and fluctuations that do appear, such as the September spike in noise awareness in Swords or the temporary rise in negative sentiment in Rush-Lusk, largely returned to typical levels by December. These patterns reflect operational factors such as seasonal runway use and wind direction rather than sustained shifts in community sentiment. Support for future development remains exceptionally high at 82%, including among residents who experience noise, demonstrating a continued belief in the airport's long-term value.

At the same time, the findings highlight areas where further progress is both possible and expected. Communication remains the weakest-performing dimension, with only half of residents feeling the airport is open and transparent. Howth-Malahide shows a soft downward trend in perceptions of corporate citizenship, and some areas experienced short-term dips in trust or quality of life perceptions. Noise remains a lived reality for many residents, with 75% noticing some level of noise, though most describe it as low to medium impact.

Overall, the 2025 results present a community that values Dublin Airport's economic and social contribution, maintains a strong baseline of trust, and remains supportive of its future development. The findings also point to clear opportunities: strengthening communication, deepening engagement in areas showing early signs of concern, and continuing to demonstrate responsiveness to noise related issues. Together, these actions will help reinforce the positive relationship that has been evident throughout the year and ensure it continues to grow.

