

Mr. Eamon Ryan  
Minister for Transport  
Department of Transport  
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Dublin 2, D02 TR60  
Sent by email: [Minister@transport.gov.ie](mailto:Minister@transport.gov.ie)

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**OPEN REPLY**

Dear Eamon,

I refer to your recent open letter, the content of which is factually untrue.

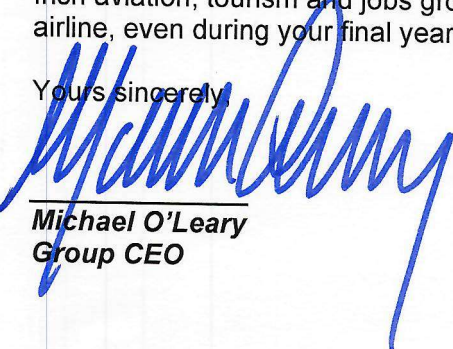
Your claim to have “*worked tirelessly to deliver benefits to Irish people in aviation*” is simply false. After 4 years as Transport Minister, our main gateway airport, Dublin has opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway (taking runway capacity to 60m plus) but its traffic is capped at 32m passengers, so neither aviation, traffic nor Irish tourism can grow unless you intervene. If you have been “*working tirelessly*” to deliver aviation benefits for the Irish people, why have you – for 4 years - failed to take any action to remove this absurd and artificial traffic cap when Dublin now has a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway?

Your claim that as Minister for Transport you “*cannot intervene in the planning process*” is another untruth. In recent interviews, you have shown no restraint in confidently predicting that the Dublin Metro will receive planning approval “*later this year*”, despite the fact that this project is currently being considered by An Bord Pleanála. You clearly have no difficulty intervening in the “*planning process*” for the Dublin Metro, while at the same time, you abdicate all responsibility for, or refuse to act (even on an interim basis) to remove this absurd traffic cap, which blocks all growth of traffic and tourism in Ireland through Dublin. It is remarkable that 2 Green Party Ministers are currently responsible for Transport, and for Tourism, and yet you both appear incapable of, or unwilling to, take any action to scrap this absurd traffic cap, which is now diverting Ireland’s traffic, tourism and jobs growth away from Dublin to other UK & EU competitor airports.

I am very surprised at your false claim that you have invited me to meet with you to discuss any issues “*face to face*”. If you wanted to meet with Europe’s largest airline at any time over the past 4 years, you could have easily requested such a meeting. If you need to learn how Ireland’s Transport Minister could deliver growth in aviation and tourism here in Ireland, you are welcome to visit our Airside offices in Swords at any time (and you were repeatedly invited here by Eddie Wilson). You might finally deliver your own Aviation Policy, which is to grow Irish aviation, tourism and jobs. Instead, you have delivered a traffic cap and stagnation at Dublin Airport, after 4 years of your tenure as Minister (and Catherine Martin’s stint as Tourism Minister). So much for “*delivering benefits to Irish people in aviation*”.

Please let me know if you would like a plan (since you don’t have one) on how easily and quickly Irish aviation, tourism and jobs growth could be delivered at Dublin Airport, by Europe’s largest airline, even during your final year as Ireland’s Transport Minister in the run up to the next election.

Yours sincerely



**Michael O'Leary**  
Group CEO