



Ireland West  
Airport

2022

# ANNUAL REVIEW



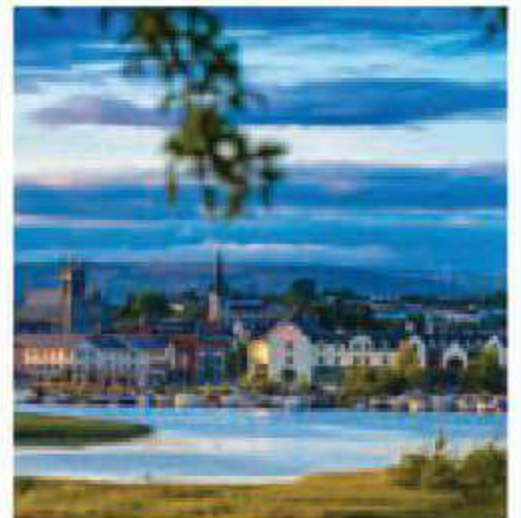


**721,894**  
passengers in  
2022

**20**  
Destinations  
worldwide

**89%**  
of 2019  
Traffic levels

**New  
services**  
Heathrow  
Birmingham  
Edinburgh  
Manchester  
Lanzarote





# 2022 A strong recovery in air travel

## Chairman's message

After two of the most challenging years in the airport's history, following the impact of COVID-19, I am pleased to report the return of a strong demand for travel from the airport in the second half of 2022. Following a record year in 2019 with passenger numbers rising to 807,000 for the first time in the airport's history, the global pandemic resulted in air travel effectively shutting down for an almost two-year period, with passenger numbers collapsing to less than 200,000 in both 2020 and 2021 – figures last seen in the mid-1990s. This was an extremely tough and challenging period for the airport. We are very grateful to the Government for the help they put in place during this period, through the various support schemes for aviation and in particular, I must pay tribute to the former Minister of State with responsibility for aviation, Hildegard Naughton TD, who was very supportive throughout her tenure. Without her support and the various support schemes she put in place for aviation, the airport would have been in a very critical and vulnerable position.

2022 has proven to be a strong year of recovery for the airport, with passenger numbers increasing by 314% to 722,000, compared to 174,000 passengers in 2021 with numbers recovering to 89% of the record 2019 level of 807,000 passengers. We have been fortunate to welcome both Aer Lingus and Ryanair back to the airport, restoring 100% of their pre-covid route network and to Ryanair in particular, added new services to Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Manchester in 2022 and at the end of the year announced the return of their hugely popular service to Lanzarote for the 2023 summer season.

As we look ahead to 2023 provisional forecasts look very positive and the year has already got off to a good start with the announcement by Ryanair of their biggest ever summer schedule in 2023, operating flights to 16 destinations, with 120 weekly flights, a 15% increase on 2022. In addition, Ryanair will increase frequencies on 5 of their UK routes, adding an extra 40,000+ seats on services to Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Liverpool, and Manchester.

In January, Aer Lingus announced they will commence a new daily service to London Heathrow commencing on March 26th, 2023. This new service will provide a major boost for the airport and the region and will provide direct access to one of Europe's major international airport hubs. It not only provides a daily service to Heathrow, but it also provides onward connectivity to major international markets across North America, Asia, and further afield which sees the return of scheduled transatlantic connectivity to the airport for the first time since 2007.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our loyal customers who have supported the airport through this crisis, and it has been heart-warming to see them return to the airport in their thousands in recent months. Also, a word of thanks to our stakeholders, tourism groups, local authorities, chambers, and Government representatives for their ongoing support in helping us through this difficult period as we rebuild the business. I would also like to say a special word of thanks to the staff at the airport for their resilience, support, and commitment to the airport in what has been the most challenging period in the airport's history – this is truly appreciated by us all. As we look ahead to the future, we have no doubt there will be many more challenges ahead due to the ongoing global uncertainty but we are confident the airport is in a strong position to capitalise when demand returns fully to pre-pandemic levels.



Arthur French  
**Arthur French**  
Chairman

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SHAREHOLDERS

**Brendan McGrath,**  
CE, Galway City Council

The local authority shareholders are pleased to see a strong recovery in air travel in 2022 with passenger numbers recovering to over 720,000. The return to growth in passenger numbers is positive news from a tourism, business and regional development perspective.

We are delighted to welcome the new service to London Heathrow with Aer Lingus. The hub status of Heathrow for businesses to connect with the global marketplace is a potential game changer for this region, and from a tourism perspective the service will deliver a significant increase in tourism visits from all corners of the globe.



# CORPORATE UPDATE

## 2022 Performance

2022 proved to be a strong year of recovery at Ireland West Airport, with passenger numbers increasing by 314% to 722,000 compared to 174,000 passengers in 2021. Compared to pre-covid levels, passenger numbers recovered to 89% of the record 2019 level of 807,000 passengers.

Turnover rose to €17.9m in 2022 and during the year the airport continued to invest in facilities with over €3.7m invested in Capital Projects in 2022.

# €17.9m

turnover in 2022



# F



## Board Appointments

In 2022 Ireland West Airport was pleased to announce that Andrew Gallagher joined the Board of Directors of the airport. A native of County Mayo, Mr. Gallagher is currently an experienced partner with KPMG in Ireland, and a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor. His client base in KPMG includes Irish public companies, international companies headquartered in Ireland, and international companies with significant Irish operations. Andrew advises these companies on both Irish and international tax and is particularly experienced in advising on international business operations. Andrew was previously a board member and President of the Irish Tax Institute, a board member of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce, and his areas of expertise include Corporate Tax, and Tax compliance, and he holds a BA (Law & Acc), AITI, and ACA.

RYANAIR



# AVIATION DEVELOPMENT



## 2022 New Services

2022 saw the airport welcome new services to Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Manchester with Ryanair as the airport restored these popular services following the cessation of Flybe in March 2020. This was a very positive development as it provided continuity of service on three very important and popular UK services for the airport and region.

The number of passengers traveling on services to and from mainland and continental Europe hit a new high for the airport in 2022, surpassing 2019 levels, increasing by 9% to 138,621, with a particularly strong performance recorded on services to and from Cologne, Barcelona, and Milan, which in turn generated significant economic benefits for the West, Northwest, and Midlands regions, through increased overseas visitors from these regions.

Passenger numbers travelling on services to and from the UK reached 578,000, boosted by the commencement of new services and the return of the popular Aer Lingus service to London Gatwick. In addition, Ryanair recorded its busiest-ever year for passenger numbers at Ireland West Airport, carrying a total of 654k passengers in 2022.

## 2023 Developments

For summer 2023, Ryanair will operate their biggest ever schedule from the airport, 16 routes, and 120 weekly flights, a 15% increase on 2022. In addition, Ryanair has increased frequencies on 5 UK routes, adding an extra 40,000+ seats on services to Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Liverpool, and Manchester.

**722,000**

passengers in 2022

**89%**

of 2019 passenger levels



NT

### New Destinations 2023

In a major development for the airport and the wider region, Aer Lingus will operate a new daily service to London Heathrow, starting on Sunday, March 26th, 2023. This new service will provide a major boost for the airport and the region as it is the first time in the airport's 37-year history that it will have access to one of Europe's major international airport hubs. This new service is a major boost for the airport and the entire West of Ireland region as it not only provides a daily service to Heathrow, it also provides onward connectivity to major international markets across North America such as New York and Boston and to multiple destinations in Asia, Africa and Australia.

Ryanair will recommence a weekly service to Lanzarote on March 28th, 2023 which will provide a major boost for holidaymakers across the West, Northwest, and Midland's regions of Ireland as weekly flights to this hugely popular sun destination are restored for the first time since January 2020. The reintroduction of the Lanzarote service is part of Ryanair's planned biggest-ever summer schedule from Ireland West Airport in summer 2023.

# 15%

capacity increase on UK services by Ryanair

### Challenging aviation environment

The airport continues to engage with several airlines across the UK, Europe, and the US regarding the potential for new services. The market remains very challenging due to the volatile nature of the industry and the economic situation globally. This, combined with the ongoing uncertainties around the cost of living, fuel prices, and the ongoing situation in Ukraine, have the potential to impact travel for the coming year. However, airport management remains confident that the airport has a strong portfolio of airlines and a strong and sustainable route network and customer base that will see us well-positioned to grow the business further in the coming years.





# COMMERCIAL



## Retail and Catering Update

The second half of 2022 proved to be strong from a commercial perspective, with both the retail and catering outlets at the airport reporting a strong performance during the summer and winter periods. The airport continues to invest in enhancing the commercial offering at the airport and plans are in place to further develop the retail and catering offerings in 2023, to further drive revenue and cater for ever changing passenger needs.

2023 enhancements will include a new seating and dining area next to the XL Newsagents in the main terminal whilst the upstairs restaurant area will be upgraded to include a new food and Barista coffee offering.





# IAL

Ireland West

## Car Parking

The airport will continue to develop the online car parking offering in 2023, to deliver further efficiency, customer enhancements, and revenue generating opportunities. Furthermore, in late 2022, as part of the ongoing Ireland West Airport Transformation programme, work commenced on the resurfacing and upgrading of parts of the airport car parking facilities at Ireland West Airport. The car park enhancement works included new tarmacadam surfacing to the entirety of car park zone b and resurfacing and reconfiguration works to car park zone c at the airport.

These enhancements to the car park facilities will provide a further enhanced experience for airport users and provide flexibility to allow the airport to provide increased capacity as it continues to grow passenger numbers.



# AIRPORT TRANSFORMATION

## Airport Transformation Programme

2022 saw continued investment in the Airport Transformation Programme with several infrastructural projects commencing during the course of 2022, aimed at continuing to enhance the airports facilities to meet the future needs of both our airline customers and passengers.

Projects which commenced in 2022 include:

- Sustainability master plan to support the airport's sustainability and environmental strategy
- Major upgrade of the airport's electrical infrastructure across the entire airport campus
- Upgrade of the airport ground services fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles
- Purchase of a new fire tender vehicle
- Resurfacing and upgrading of the airport car parking facilities at Ireland West Airport
- Essential maintenance works in the upstairs Sláinte restaurant area of the airport

## €3.7m

investment in Capital Projects in 2022



# FORMATION

## Planned Projects 2023-2026

During the period 2023-2026, several major safety and security-related projects are planned to commence which are forecasted to cost in the region of €25m. The Airport development fee will provide a critical funding support to facilitate the completion of these projects. Whilst major safety and security-related infrastructural projects are part supported by Government funding – grant aid provided for capital expenditure projects is required to be matched by the airport from its own resources and the development fee is critical to bridging this gap.

The completion of these projects will ensure the airport continues to comply with International safety and security regulations and see the airport continue to enhance its facilities and customer experience for our passengers.

# €25m

investment in projects 2023-2026

- Expansion of the aircraft parking area to provide for additional aircraft stands
- Installation of next-generation cabin baggage screening equipment
- Partially covered aircraft boarding area
- Runway end safety area works
- Progressing of the airport's sustainability and environmental strategy to achieve 'net zero' for its carbon emissions by 2050
- Provision of new explosive trace detection systems
- Instrument flight procedure charts and airspace change system upgrades
- Refurbishment and upgrade of the electrical infrastructure, aeronautical ground lighting (AGL) and air traffic control systems
- Continued expansion and upgrade of the retail & catering facilities at the airport



# AGE FRIENDLY

## Age Friendly Airport Recognition

In June 2022, Ireland West Airport and Shannon Airport become the first airports in the world to be recognised as Age Friendly airports by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Since 2019, when this project commenced, the airport has been working to transform the airport experience for our older customers through the enhancement of the airport's services and facilities and throughout the process worked in collaboration with the teams at Age Friendly Ireland, the Older Peoples Council and Mayo County Council to ensure the transformation works and service offering met with the requirements of the Age Friendly Recognition Programme.

Age Friendly Airport guidelines were drafted for certification by the World Health Organisation, based on walkability studies and reports carried out at the two airports. This included carrying out 'walkability audits' of the building and its environs. These audits examined seating, signage, footpaths, car parking, toilet, and other facilities and access routes. Ireland West Airport scored well for its existing facilities but also identified improvements needed, and subsequently rolled out a work plan to develop its amenities as age-friendly.

Following the review with all contributors, Ireland West Airport installed extra seating in its arrivals and departures area, a new adult and disability changing facility, new wayfinding signage, covered boarding steps, dedicated age friendly seating areas in departures, upgraded handling equipment, and delivered staff training.





# Y AIRPORT

## National Age Friendly Award 2022

In October 2022, Ireland West Airport and Shannon Airport were delighted to be crowned joint winners of the Age Friendly Transport Award at the prestigious National Age Friendly Transport Awards. The primary aim of the National Age Friendly Awards is to recognise and reward achievement in age-friendly initiatives around Ireland.

The Age-Friendly Transport Award recognises the vital difference that availability to good quality, easily accessible, user friendly and reliable transport options can make to an older person.

Through the continuous hard work of the staff at Ireland West Airport, the airport is now acknowledged as a world leader, in providing a more age-friendly environment, particularly for those most vulnerable in society who rely on that extra personal touch and care which can be so important to them as they journey through the airport.





# REGION PROMOTION

## Overseas Marketing Campaigns

In 2022 Ireland West Airport partnered with Tourism Ireland, Aer Lingus and Ryanair in investing over €500,000 in promoting overseas access to the West and Northwest regions of Ireland. A key feature of the activity was to promote access to all counties that form part of the Local Authority and Airport partnership.

Advertising campaigns ran during 2022, focusing on promoting access from key European markets such as Cologne and Milan, and in UK cities such as Birmingham, Edinburgh, London, and Manchester, highlighting the attractions of the region and the low fares access direct to the West and Northwest of Ireland.

## UK Promotions

Advertising campaigns to the value of €300,000 took place in Birmingham, Edinburgh, London, and Manchester to promote access from these key markets to the West of Ireland with Ryanair and Aer Lingus. The campaigns ran during the period from September to November to stimulate travel during the off-peak season.

The campaigns ran across radio, digital, and the social media platforms with Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

## European Access Promotion

Between May and October, campaigns to the value of €200,000 ran across radio, digital, and social media platforms promoting access from Milan and Cologne to Ireland West Airport with Ryanair. A mix of tools and touchpoints were used including website placement, App placement, solus emails, and social media placement to promote the West and Northwest of Ireland as an attractive destination for German and Italian travellers.

The highlight of this campaign was a Hero Banner asset on the Ryanair website, which had a reach of over 1.8m impressions and generated over 400 bookings to Ireland on the services. Overall there was a high level of engagement in both campaigns with over 8 million impressions from banner advertising reached during the campaign. It is estimated by Tourism Ireland that the booking uplift (% change in bookings versus non-campaign period) was 202% following the campaign.

# €500,000

investment in promoting the regions  
in overseas markets in 2022




# ON

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IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK  
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Daily flights from London Heathrow to Ireland West Airport  
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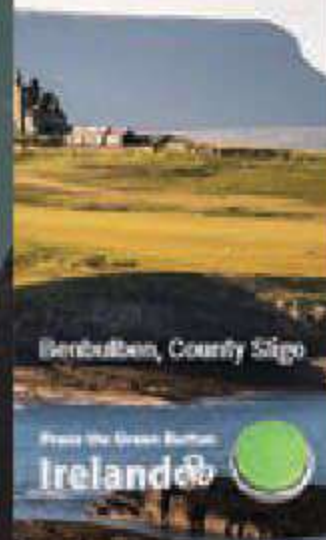
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FLY TO KNOCK-IRELAND WEST FROM £24.99  
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Beraballen, County Sligo  
From the Green Button  
**Irland** 





# SUSTAINA

The background of the page is a photograph of an airport tarmac. In the foreground, a white ElectroAir ground support vehicle is parked. To its right, a yellow aircraft service platform is visible. In the background, there are airport buildings and a fence under a cloudy sky.

## **Sustainability and Environmental Strategy**

In February 2022, Ireland West Airport joined airport colleagues from across Europe in signing up to the 'Toulouse Declaration' which marks a new chapter in Europe's journey towards aviation's net zero 2050 goal.

The 'Toulouse Declaration' marks the first time that European Governments, the European Commission, industry, unions, and other key stakeholders formally align on aviation decarbonisation as the industry strives to establish an EU Pact for Aviation Decarbonisation.

Ireland West Airport is currently part of the Airport Councils International (ACI) Carbon Accreditation Programme which sets out a framework for airports to reduce and manage their carbon footprint. In 2019 the airport was awarded Eco Merit Certification which recognises that the airport is operating in an environmentally responsible manner with a continued focus on helping improve our environmental performance, reduce costs, and manage risk.

The airport is currently progressing a sustainability and environmental strategy over the next 5-year period and working towards completing the ACI carbon accreditation programme to create an environmental green airport programme reducing overall carbon emissions to achieve 'net zero' for its carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest.



# BILITY

## Level 1 Airport Carbon Accreditation

In October 2022, Ireland West Airport achieved Level 1 Accreditation, 'Mapping', in recognition of the airport's actions to address its CO2 emissions, as part of the global industry's response to the challenge of climate change.

Airport Carbon Accreditation is the global standard for carbon management and emission reductions at airports. This certification programme, specifically designed for airports, has received widespread support and endorsements from both the EU and the UN agencies responsible for civil aviation (ICAO) and climate change (UNFCCC). Launched in June 2009, the programme has six levels of accreditation: Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation, Neutrality, Transformation and Transition.

Participation in the Airport Carbon Accreditation Programme plays a significant role in the advancement of the airport's overall sustainability strategy. Ireland West Airport's accreditation at the 'Mapping' level means that the airport has mapped all of the CO2 emissions sources under its direct control, on the airport site and will now put in place the necessary processes to reduce CO2 emissions.

Airport Carbon Accreditation is an annual certification programme and consequently requires an ongoing commitment to sustainability and continuous improvements from year to year.





# CHARITY SUPPO

## Supporting local charities

In December, staff at Ireland West Airport were delighted to present a cheque for a record €42,580 to the three staff nominated charities for 2022 – Childhood Cancer Ireland, Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust and The Sensational Kids charity.

Throughout 2022 a number of events took place with Ireland West Airport employees getting involved to support the three charities. The most successful fundraiser in 2022 was the annual Portwest 5km Runway Run, which saw over 1,000 people take to the airport's runway in September.

The other major fundraisers included an online bingo night which was a huge success in November and a bumper online charity draw, which took place in August, and offered fantastic prizes such as a signed and framed Katie Taylor Picture & Boxing Glove, flights and match tickets to see Man Utd play Man City, VIP Experience tickets to Riverdance, return flights to Milan, and much more. There was a fantastic response by the public and combined, both online fundraisers raised almost €20,000 for the three charities. In addition, all donations made in the charity boxes in the various locations at the airport, by passengers throughout the year, contributed to the significant funds raised for the three charities in 2022.

## €42,580

raised for three Irish charities in 2022



# RT

Whilst the last couple of years have been challenging for all concerned, it has been a particularly tough time for charities, which have been unable to fundraise in their normal ways due to the restrictions. In this regard it has been particularly pleasing for the airport this year to have contributed to these three fantastic charities and present a cheque for a record amount of €42,580, to support the fantastic work that these charities all undertake, which really does make such a difference to the people that they support in our community.

**Colin Bell**, Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust, commented "KBRT would like to thank Ireland West Airport for their magnificent donation to our Trust. They were so easy to work with and I know the amazing €42,580 they raised for ourselves, Childhood Cancer Ireland and Sensational Kids will be a massive benefit to all three charities".

**Laura Cullinan**, CEO and Parent of Childhood Cancer Ireland, noted that the funds raised by Ireland West Airport and its patrons will allow the charity to continue its work in the region. "The support from Ireland West Airport has not only raised vital funds for our emotional supports and services programmes in the West it has also helped raise awareness of childhood cancer in the region".

**Maureen Byrne**, Sensational Kids, said "We are so grateful to the staff at Ireland West Airport and to all those who took part in the bumper raffle, the runway run, and the online bingo events. You will be supporting Sensational Kids in our efforts to maximise the potential of the children we serve. We are privileged to have been included with the other worthy charities".







# Ireland West Airport

[www.irelandwestairport.com](http://www.irelandwestairport.com)



Irelandwestknock



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Irelandwestknock



Ireland West  
bringing you  
**Leitrim**

Located just 40 minutes from Ireland West Airport and just two hours from Belfast, Dublin and Galway, Leitrim is a county where you can explore, experience and enjoy superb landscapes and breath-taking scenery alongside bustling towns and quaint villages.

Experience traditional music, authentic food and the culture of Leitrim at a variety of venues in the county, from the historic Castle of the Marquis to the modern-day venues.

Glenties Festival	Leitrim Castle
The Fiddle Centre	Glenties Museum
St. George's Visitor Centre	Glenties Visitor Centre

Leitrim