

Dublin Airport News

Winter
2024/2025
Issue No. 29



85 years of connecting Ireland to the world

Eighty-five years ago this month, history was made when the first flight took to the skies from Dublin Airport. Departing at 9am on January 19, 1940, the Aer Lingus Lockheed 14 aircraft was bound for Liverpool. This one short flight heralded the start of a new era for Ireland, one in which aviation would play a major role in connecting our island with the world.

As we start a new year, this milestone offers us a moment to reflect on how far we have come and, more importantly, how we can grow together as a neighbour, business partner, and major employer. Dublin Airport is more than buildings and airplanes, it is a thriving campus with more than 20,000 people employed.

My journey started in 1995 when I was lucky enough to get a six-month student placement working in the finance department, which led to a variety of roles at the airport over the next thirty years. There are many people working at the airport whose parents did before them, or who met their spouse here, or whose children hope to work here. Dublin Airport is a community, and we are part of a larger community outside our campus.

As we look to the future and the continued growth of Dublin Airport, we are committed to achieving positive change through our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives. Our goal is to create a sustainable future for our community. We are making significant strides in reducing our carbon footprint, aiming to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and we believe in fostering strong relationships with our local communities.

Over the past year, we have launched several community engagement programs aimed at supporting local businesses, enhancing educational opportunities, and investing in sporting, cultural, and artistic facilities through the €10 million Dublin Airport Community Fund.

We also recognise the importance of dialogue and engagement. We are continuously working to improve our processes and engage with our community in meaningful ways. We were delighted to receive positive feedback from some of the 40,000 households across North Dublin who received the summer edition of our newsletter. We are pleased to extend the distribution of the winter edition to areas of Meath. We've lots of exciting developments planned for 2025 and look forward to sharing more news throughout the year.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary, I want to acknowledge and say thanks to all our passengers, partners, and neighbours for your continued support. Here's to another 85 years of connecting Ireland to the world and making a positive impact.



Warm regards,

Gary McLean
Managing Director
Dublin Airport



Page 2

Dublin Airport celebrates its 85th anniversary



Page 8

Dublin Airport staff help build local community spaces



Page 10

Our year in pictures



Dublin Airport celebrates its 85th anniversary



Since opening on January 19, 1940, Dublin Airport has grown from a single grass runway to a bustling international hub, handling over 30 million passengers each year.

The airport's journey began with a modest Aer Lingus flight to Liverpool, marking the start of a legacy that has seen Dublin Airport become a critical link between Ireland and the rest of the world.

Just two years later, in 1942, the original terminal building of Dublin Airport opened. The building was inspired by the shape of

ocean liners. It was thought that the familiar shape would help passengers feel comfortable with the then novel concept of flying. When it opened, it was designed to cater for just 100,000 passengers a year. Today, a similar number of passengers travel through Dublin Airport on a typical day.

While new piers were added during the 1960s, it was the opening of Terminal 1 in 1972 that was a game changer to the airport's ability to manage increasing passenger volumes. It was built to accommodate the two million passengers that were then passing through

the original terminal on an annual basis. It cost £7m pounds to build and boasted eight departure lounges, seven jet airbridges and an immigration area. The terminal building also had 600 parking spaces, but these were converted into offices some years later.

It wasn't just the buildings that were feeling the pressure from the growing demand for air travel, a new £35m runway opened in 1989. Bigger and heavier aircraft were taking their toll on the existing infrastructure, with cracks appearing on the runway.

In 2007, Pier 1 was added which is where Ryanair flights depart from. Just three years later, following a €600m investment, Terminal 2 flung open its doors. It was the subject of much criticism at the time, with some commenting that a second terminal at Dublin wasn't needed. 13 million passengers now pass through T2 every year.

In 2022, North Runway commenced operations following a €320m investment, further enhancing connectivity of Ireland's island economy for the benefit of consumers, tourism and foreign direct investment.

Over the decades, the airport has witnessed significant milestones, including visits from US Presidents and Popes, global superstars like The Beatles and Taylor Swift, and the triumphant homecomings of national sporting heroes.

To commemorate this landmark anniversary, we are hosting a series of events throughout the terminals. Passengers will enjoy a festive atmosphere with live music, historical exhibits, and animations showcasing the airport's evolution over the past 85 years.

Whether you are a frequent flyer or a first-time visitor, Dublin Airport's 85th anniversary celebrations are a memorable experience. The events on January 19, 2025, celebrate the past, present, and future of one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks and a vital part of Ireland's economy, facilitating job creation, tourism, and foreign direct investment.



Viewing area at Dublin Airport, circa 1960



New fire tender for Dublin Airport, circa 1945



Aerial view of Dublin Airport, circa 1960



Aerial view of Dublin Airport and new hanger circa 1943

Since opening in 1940, the airport has grown from a single grass runway, to handling over **30 million** passengers annually

Sensory room offers passengers a calm space



daa CEO Kenny Jacobs and Taoiseach Simon Harris are shown the features of the new sensory room by Lauren Dennehy, Contracts Coordinator.

In August, we unveiled a new sensory room in Terminal 1, offering a much-needed space for passengers seeking a moment of calm.

This room is designed to support individuals with sensory processing needs, including children with autism and others who may feel overwhelmed by the airport environment. It is wheelchair accessible and features soft lighting, tactile surfaces, and a soothing bubble tower. Plus, it has a built-in Bluetooth sound system so passengers can play their favourite calming sounds.

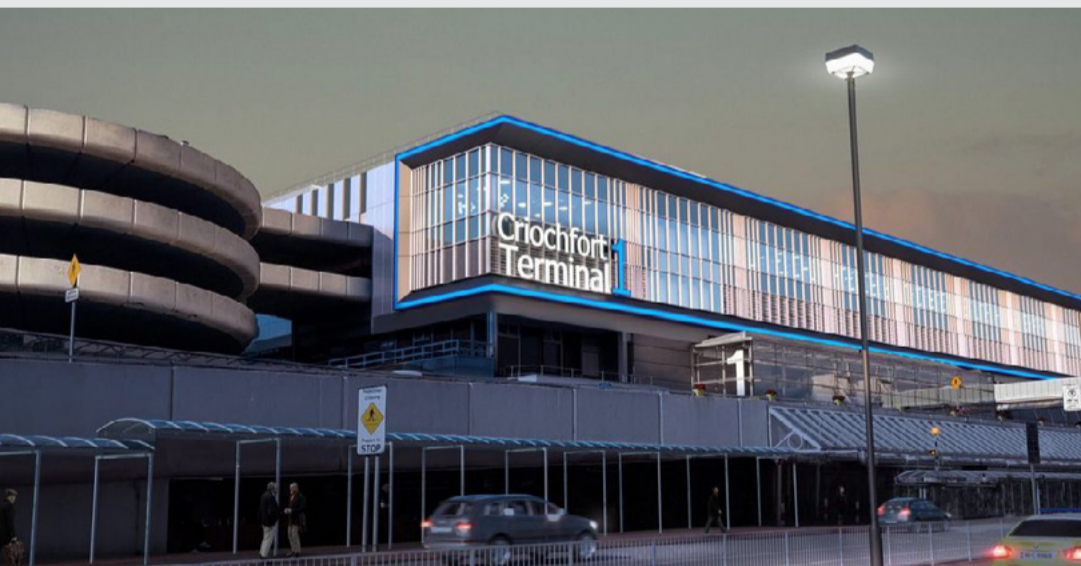
In addition to the new sensory room in T1, the existing sensory room in T2 has been given a makeover and upgraded with new equipment.

The sensory rooms are free to use but must be booked in advance on dublinairport.com

Scan the QR Code to Book Now



Terminal 1 to get a new look



We're excited to reveal plans for a new, modern look for Terminal 1. We have recently put out a tender for a refurbishment of the building's façade, which originally opened in 1972.

The planned upgrades will replace the old concrete fins with a new, energy efficient structure, and will add more glazing to the north and south sides of the building. The work will also involve insulating the roof to reduce heat loss, significantly improving the building's energy rating from an F to a B3.



New 412-room hotel breaks ground at T2

Hundreds of new jobs are set to be created on Dublin Airport's campus, once a new luxury hotel currently under construction is completed.

The hotel will have over 400 elegantly designed guest rooms and suites, an all-day dining restaurant, a tea salon, and a sky bar, located on the 11th floor.

Hospitality groups Accor and the Arora Group broke ground at the site in November. The hotel is set to open in late 2026.



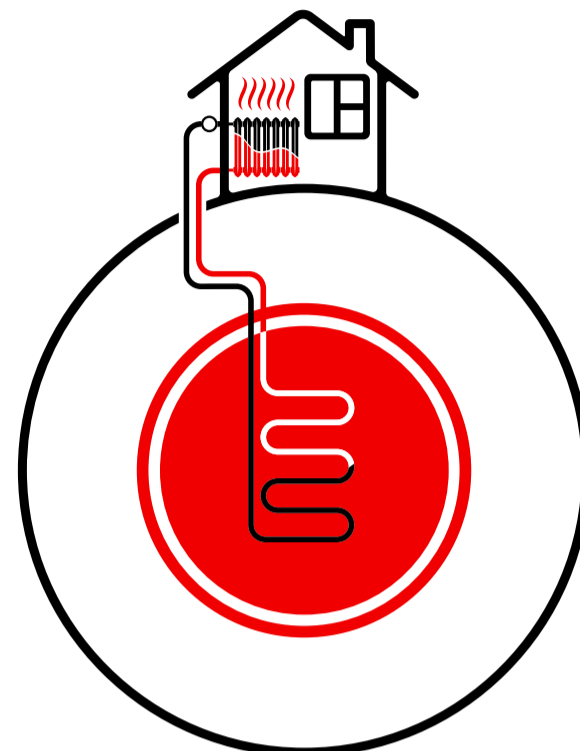
We are exploring the potential of geothermal energy as a renewable, low-carbon energy source to heat and cool our terminals.

Geothermal energy comes from heat in the Earth's core. While temperatures fluctuate above ground, a few feet below the Earth's surface the ground remains at a relatively constant temperature. It works by using ground source heat pumps and a network of underground pipes to warm water that can then be used to help heat buildings.

We carried out some initial investigations to determine whether this type of renewable energy would be effective at Dublin Airport. We discovered that Dublin Airport is an effective geothermal resource, and we are now moving onto the next phase of the project. A selective tender has been issued for a comprehensive geothermal feasibility study and initial design for Dublin Airport. We hope, through geothermal energy, to meet a heating and cooling load of between 7MW and 10MW. The outcome of the feasibility study is expected this summer.

How the 'heat beneath our feet' could warm the airport

This initiative, along with our new solar farm which became operational in October last year, demonstrates our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and moving towards our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.



DID YOU KNOW?

A few feet below the Earth's surface the ground remains at a relatively constant temperature

DID YOU KNOW?

Dublin Airport spans a vast area of land in North Dublin, covering about 2,500 acres. It is conveniently located next to two of the busiest motorways in the country - the M1 to the east and the M50 to the south. To ensure the airport's activities don't negatively impact air quality, daa carries out regular air monitoring both at the airport and in the surrounding communities.

Monitoring

We use a continuous air monitoring station within the airport's boundary and also monitor air quality at 11 different locations inside and outside the airport using passive diffusion tube sampling.

Every month, we check for various pollutants through passive tube sampling, including NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide), SO2 (Sulphur Dioxide), Benzene, Ethylbenzene, m- and p-Xylene, Toluene, and Ozone. Our continuous monitoring station keeps an eye on NO and NO2 (Oxides of Nitrogen), PM10 (particles 10 microns or less in diameter), PM2.5 (particles 2.5 microns or less in diameter), SO2 (Sulphur Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide), and O3 (Ozone).

Standards

The World Health Organization (WHO) updated its Air Quality Guidelines in 2021, highlighting the health impacts of air pollutants. Ireland's 2023 Clean Air Strategy aims to meet these guidelines by 2040, with interim targets set for 2026 and 2030.

Key facts on air quality at Dublin Airport



If you missed our previous article on noise monitoring near Dublin Airport, check out the last edition of our newsletter

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) oversees Ireland's compliance with Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations. While Dublin Airport isn't required to monitor air quality under these regulations, we do so, and our results comply with current EU standards.

Reporting

We put together air quality reports every quarter, which you can find on our website. Our latest report (Q3 2024) shows that NO2, PM10, and PM2.5 levels are below the annual limits of 40µg/m³ and 20µg/m³, respectively, and within the short-term limit values. The highest NO2 concentrations were recorded at the airport's bus depot which is the busiest bus depot in the country.

You can view these reports by scanning the QR code



What we are doing to improve air quality

Dublin Airport is committed to enhancing air quality through several initiatives:

- » Our new solar farm, providing 13% of the airport's electricity needs, is now operational.
- » We've introduced electric vehicles into our airside fleet.
- » We've installed EV chargers for buses landside to enable us to transition our shuttle bus fleet to electric.
- » We are meeting the Clean Vehicles Directive objectives for both light and heavy fleets.
- » We are actively encouraging bus companies servicing the airport to use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).
- » We've installed fixed electrical ground power at all aircraft stands.
- » We're adding EV charging stations to our car parks.
- » We're adding EV charging infrastructure airside to assist and encourage stakeholders to transition their vehicle fleets (including buses and ground service equipment) to electric.
- » We use HVO for heavy fleet vehicles where EV options are limited.

These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to improving air quality and ensuring a healthier environment for everyone.

**BEHIND
THE
SCENES**

A day in the life of an Airport Security Unit Officer at Dublin Airport

The Airport Security Unit (ASU) is the largest team at Dublin Airport, and it is set to grow even further in the coming months.

In today's world of online check-ins and self-service bag drops, an ASU Officer is often the first person passengers meet when they arrive at the airport. This makes them crucial in shaping passengers' first impressions of Dublin Airport.

ASU Officers are responsible for screening passengers and their belongings, ensuring everyone follows our safety and security procedures. They are the frontline staff, keeping our airport and passengers safe and secure.

Here are some of the key tasks ASU Officers handle:

Divesting/loading

Divesting is the part of the process you're probably most familiar with. This is where an ASU Officer helps you prepare for screening by advising which items need to be removed before you go through the security scanner. They ensure your belongings are placed correctly in a tray, making it easier to screen items and keeping the flow of passengers smooth.

Screening

Each x-ray machine has a screen that displays and interprets images of each bag or tray passing through. ASU Officers are specially trained and certified to spot anything that might need further examination.

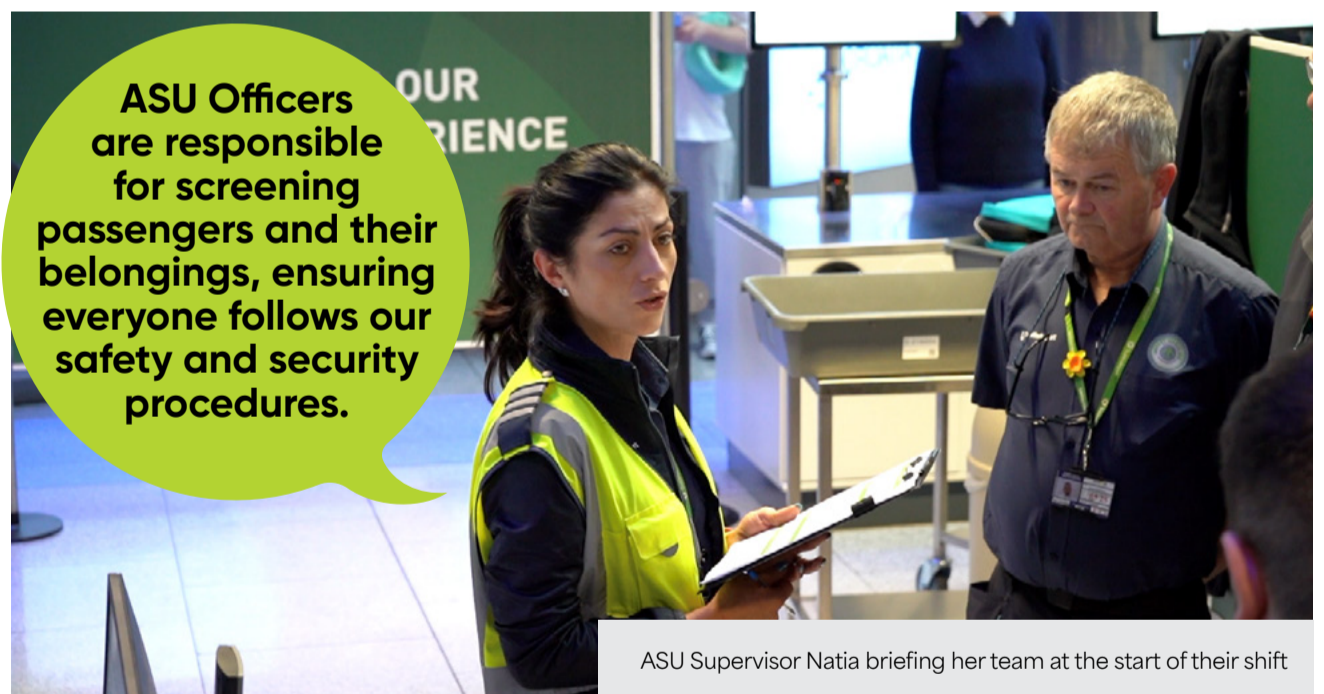
Operating the body scanner or walk-through metal detectors

Each security lane has a body scanner or walk-through metal detector that all passengers must pass through. If a machine is activated, an ASU Officer will perform additional checks to ensure it's safe for the passenger to enter the security-restricted area of the airport.

Every day at airport security is guaranteed to be interesting as our ASU team meets people from all walks of life. ASU Supervisor Natia says what she enjoys most about her job is that no two days are the same. Natia started as an ASU Officer and has been promoted twice, now serving as an ASU Supervisor. She oversees a team and helps keep operations running smoothly. "After two years as an Officer, I was promoted to a Coordinator, and after another two years, I became a Supervisor. I got a lot of support, help, and training along the way. There is so much room to grow in daa as long as you're willing to put the work in."



If you'd like to learn more about joining our team, scan the QR code and watch the video.





Community Fund spotlight

Our Community Fund has now supported €2.75 million worth of projects for local clubs and community groups since it began in 2017. Last year, we increased the yearly funding by €100,000 to €500,000 for the 2024 applications. As a result, over 100 worthy applicants were awarded funding to purchase essential sporting equipment, build recreational spaces and much, much more.

In November, Dublin Airport's Community Fund was awarded a Fingal Business Award for Best Community Involvement. The award recognised businesses that are committed to making a positive impact on society and the environment through responsible and sustainable practices. We were honoured to receive this recognition from the local business community.

The Community Fund's Grant Making Panel met in December to review the latest round of applications. With so many exciting projects to choose from, this recent funding will aid a number of local groups to operate more sustainably by installing solar panels and upgrading to more energy efficient lighting. A selection of local sports and recreational clubs will receive grants for new equipment and flood lighting for pitches. We are also supporting some local schools to be more socially inclusive with the installation of new sensory equipment in their classrooms and yard areas.

Other successful applications will support several cultural and heritage related projects and health and wellbeing activities across the eligible areas. Congratulations to all the successful applicants!



Sea Scouts



Ballymun Kickhams GAA Club



Malahide & Swords Canoe Club



Caring & Sharing Association

The Down Syndrome Centre creates a quiet space

The Down Syndrome Centre in Swords provides crucial services to children with Down syndrome and their families. Their aim is to assist children with Down syndrome to achieve developmental milestones throughout their journey to adulthood. The Community Fund has supported a number of projects at the centre in the last number of years, including a cycle track where the children can learn to ride their bikes safely.

Most recently, we helped fund a cosy log cabin in the back garden of the centre to give the team more space. In what they've named 'The Zen Den', the organisation hosts a range of activities including mother and baby classes in the mornings and meditation in the evenings.



Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Tyrrelstown installs amazing 'Geodome'

It is hard to miss the eye-catching structure planted outside Tyrrelstown Gaelscoil an Chuilinn. This 10 foot high transparent domed structure is one of the hardest working spaces at the school.

It's used for calming activities such as yoga and sound baths as well as allowing teachers to occasionally take lessons outdoors. Inside the Geodome, raised planting beds allow children to take part in planting their own seeds and watching them grow into delicious vegetables.



Last year, we supported 40 students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to access third-level education. We are proud supporters of DCU's Access Programme which provides vital funding to help students overcome financial and social barriers to achieve their academic goals.

The programme offers a range of supports, including financial scholarships, mentoring, and career guidance, enabling students to excel and make the most of their university experience. In 2023, 98% of Access Programme graduates achieved an honours degree.

Over the past seven years, Dublin Airport's support has helped students from local schools such as:

- » Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun
- » Trinity Comprehensive, Ballymun
- » La Chéile Secondary School
- » Portmarnock Secondary School
- » St Finian's Community College, Swords
- » Fingal Community College
- » Loreto Swords
- » Swords Community College

Dublin Airport helps 40 students access third-level education

Aaron is studying Aviation Management at DCU and is supported by the Access Programme.

Born in Dublin and later moving to Cavan, Aaron faced a challenging journey. After entering foster care and moving through multiple families, he found it difficult to settle and focus on his goals. However, with encouragement from his mother and support from his school, he stayed committed to his dream of working in aviation.

Since joining DCU, the Access Programme has provided Aaron with crucial financial and emotional support, enabling him to focus on his studies and thrive in university. "Without the grants and mentoring, I wouldn't be here at all," he says. His ambition doesn't stop there, Aaron is determined to become a pilot and hopes his journey inspires other young people who have experienced foster care to go after their dreams.



Volunteers make light work of transforming community spaces



In October, over 100 Dublin Airport staff members rolled up their sleeves to help build two fantastic community spaces in Swords and Kinsealy. Teams from across the airport joined forces with Difference Days, an organisation which identifies community groups in need of a helping hand to transform unused areas into beneficial outdoor community spaces.

Taking learning to the great outdoors

Our first stop was at St. Nicholas of Myra National School in Kinsealy. At the back of the school yard there is an open field which had a lot of potential. A team of staff volunteers

helped build a large wooden outdoor classroom complete with a blackboard and overhead cover. This has allowed teachers and pupils to occasionally take their lessons outside into the fresh air. A short walk away, students can also now enjoy a purpose-built horticultural space which contains six large planters and seating. Students will learn about how fruit and vegetables grow and be able to watch the process from beginning to end.

Creating space in Swords

The following week our staff volunteers visited the Rivervally Community Centre in Swords. Our team of staff volunteers came together

to build a beautiful outdoor classroom and garden. It is a serene space which will be enjoyed by a variety of groups for many years to come.

Dublin Airport was thrilled to support our local communities with these projects, proving that many hands and lots of enthusiasm really can make a difference.



A convoy of festively decorated Dublin Airport vehicles visited 11 local schools close to the airport over three days in December. Dublin Airport's Christmas Road show brought a surprise pop-up show to hundreds of students.

Singing and dancing elves performed festive songs and wowed children with their back-flipping skills and Fornite dance moves.

Unfortunately, Santa's satnav malfunctioned, and he got lost on his way to visit the schools. The elves needed all the children to sing as loudly as possible so he could find his way. All the boys and girls did a brilliant job and Santa arrived just in time to let them know they were all on the nice list and gave a gift to the school that could be enjoyed by all.

This year we visited the following schools:

- St. Margaret's NS**
- Mary Queen of Ireland NS, Toberburr**
- Rolestown NS**
- Oldtown NS,**
- Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Tyrrelstown**
- Powerstown Educate Together NS**
- Scoil an Duinninigh, Swords**
- St. Nicholas of Myra NS, Kinsealy**
- Malahide/Portmarnock Educate Together NS**
- Holy Family JNS & SNS, Swords**

Dublin Airport brings the Christmas spirit on the road



Scoil an Duinninigh, Kinsealy

Choirs welcome passengers home for Christmas



Throughout December, passengers arriving home at Dublin Airport were greeted by the joyful sounds of our Christmas Entertainment Programme.

Over 40 schools, choirs and local acts performed in the terminals, culminating on Christmas Eve, with a special performance by Dublin Gospel Choir.

Stages adorned with spectacular Christmas décor were set up in arrival halls in T1 and T2, providing the perfect backdrop for performers to sing beloved festive tunes.

The Christmas Entertainment Programme is a much-loved tradition at Dublin Airport which helps create the fabulous festive atmosphere found here each year.



Our year in pictures



JANUARY



We announced details of 23 new and improved food and beverage offerings in January. Many of these are now open for business such as Supermacs and Papa John's in T2, while Butler's and Burger King in T1 have been completely renovated.

FEBRUARY



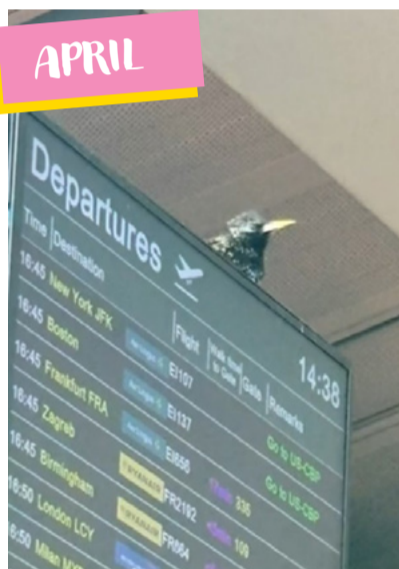
We handed over €315,000 to our 2023 charity partners in February, The Alzheimer's Society, Ronald McDonald House and Cork Life Centre. This money is fundraised by all daa employees over the course of the year.



MARCH

In March, we welcomed home Sinead, our first female dog handler in the history of Dublin Airport, with her beautiful and intelligent dog, Yazz.

APRIL



Back in April, we discovered a bird had somehow made its way inside Pier 1. The wide-open, windowless space made it tricky to set the bird, now called Charlie, free. After lots of patience and perseverance, Charlie was carefully captured and released outside T1 where he happily flew off and enjoyed his new found freedom.

MAY



We welcomed 30,000 football fans to Dublin in May for the Europa League Final.



JUNE



Thousands of Swifties came through Dublin Airport to attend Taylor Swift's Eras Tour in the Aviva Stadium in June.



We showed our Pride in June by turning our terminal lights into rainbows! Our employees also marched in the Pride parade alongside a Dublin Airport fire tender, which turned pink for the occasion!



JULY

In July, Grafton Barber ended the 30-year absence of a barber shop in Dublin Airport, with the opening of its 60th store. Actor James Nesbitt attended the opening and was the first to get a chop!



AUGUST



Team Ireland made the whole nation proud at the Olympic Games in Paris. The T2 Arrival Hall was bursting at the seams with family, friends and supporters!



SEPTEMBER



In September, Team Ireland brought six medals back to Ireland from the Paralympic Games. They arrived home to a hero's welcome!



NOVEMBER



There wasn't a dry eye in the T1 Arrival Hall when our peacekeeping troops returned home from Lebanon in November.



OCTOBER

This snap was taken in October, in the midst of our T2: Sounds of Home series, which saw weekly live music performances by emerging local musicians.



DECEMBER



We hit the road to bring festive fun to lots of neighbouring schools!



COMPETITION CORNER



Children's Colouring Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the colouring competition in our last edition.

And the winner is...
Sadhbh Downing, Age 10



Sadhbh's art made us do a double take, her use of colour and decorative jewels shows a young woman not afraid to go beyond the brief and make something her own. Bravo to Sadhbh, our worthy winner. And well done to all the children who entered!

Give this picture a splash of colour to be in with a chance to win a €100 One4All voucher!



How to enter:

Take a picture of your child's entry and email it to communities@daa.ie along with their name, age, the area you're from and a contact number before Friday, February 21st.

Adult Competition



Congratulations to last edition's winner, Judy Boland from Swords.

Answer the three questions to be in with a chance to win a €100 One4All voucher.

Email your answers along with your name, where you're from and a contact number to communities@daa.ie The closing date for entries is Friday, February 21st.

- 1 What **age** is Dublin Airport turning this year?
- 2 At how many **locations** across Dublin Airport's campus is air quality monitored?
- 3 What is the **name** of the process where ASU Officers help prepare passengers for screening?

Follow Us!

@dublinairport

