



daa publishes results of two-year PFAS risk assessment

Dublin Airport one of 90 sites in Ireland known or suspected to have PFAS issue

daa has published the results of a comprehensive two-year risk assessment of PFAS on the grounds of Dublin Airport.

PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkylated substances) are an emerging pollutant of concern. In use since the 1950s in a range of industries and products - including consumer products such as carpets, non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, personal care products and cosmetics - PFAS are long-lasting compounds and have been found in water and soil in almost every country in the world. In Europe, the [Le Monde Map of PFAS Contamination](#) identifies 44,500 sites where PFAS contamination has either been detected or is presumed to exist. These sites include landfills, pharmaceutical plants, and manufacturing sites in addition to fire stations and airports. The Le Monde Map identifies up to 90 sites in Ireland that could potentially be contaminated with PFAS.

The main use of PFAS compounds from an airport perspective was the historical use of firefighting foam that contained PFAS. The foams used today at Dublin Airport are classified as Fluorine Free and do not contain PFAS. However, historic use of PFAS-containing foams before 2013 means legacy PFAS contamination exists in the ground, particularly in old fire training grounds and areas where there may have been incidents of fire suppression with foam.

The focus of the external review commissioned by daa and undertaken by environmental experts Fehily Timoney was to assess and identify potential risks arising from this legacy usage at Dublin Airport. The comprehensive analysis, completed over 28 months, models the presence and levels of PFAS on the site. The report confirms that varying levels of PFAS were found as expected in surface water, ground water, soil, and concrete, typically with higher concentrations being found closer to areas where PFAS-firefighting foam was used historically. It also provides some understanding as to how the compounds may move off site.

Having completed the necessary first phase of the assessment, the next steps will include:

1. Continued campus monitoring, expanded to include a wider range of off-site locations, to develop an external risk profile for both ground and surface water.
2. Ensure soil monitoring for PFAS for any new onsite projects.
3. Development of a suite of appropriate management and remediation options to address PFAS, where found.

daa has had ongoing engagement with the relevant authorities, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Fingal County Council (FCC). Both the regulatory frameworks, and the availability of remediation technologies that can help

address this issue, are evolving rapidly as understanding of PFAS grows at a national and international level. daa welcomes the support and input of regulatory authorities in working together to tackle this important issue. As one of the first organisations in Ireland actively working to address PFAS, daa hopes that the comprehensive data being made public today enhances the understanding of the potential scale of this issue across Ireland on sites where PFAS-firefighting foam has been used historically, and what might be done to address it.

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For further information see:

[Sustainability at Dublin Airport](#)

[PFAS FAQ April 2024](#)

[2021-2023 Environmental Monitoring Non-Technical Summary](#)

[2021-2023 Environmental Monitoring Report](#)