

CAN THE NEW 'IRISH REVOLUT' BEAT THE ORIGINAL?

Rachel O'Dwyer
Opinion&Analysis



Hair dye, vintage dresses and a deadpan delivery do not 'outcasts' make. I'm from Kildare. You should see the freaks who inhabited my school. It was like a zoo

Patrick Freyne
Arts&Ideas



FAMILY AFFAIR IN RATHMINES FORMER HOME OF GARRET FITZGERALD

Residential
Property

Nato denounces 'reckless' Russian drone incursion into Polish airspace

Nato-allied planes scrambled to shoot down some of 19 drones over Poland

Donald Tusk describes incident as 'large-scale provocation'

DEREK SCALLY
in Berlin

Nato secretary general Mark Rutte has denounced as "reckless" a Russian-steered drone incursion into Polish airspace, warning the alliance will defend "every inch" of its territory.

In a serious escalation of Russia's war in Ukraine, Nato-allied aircraft were scrambled to shoot down some of the 19 drones that entered Polish airspace over a six-hour period until 6.30am yesterday.

Many crashed in uninhabited areas, Polish investigators said, while others struck homes and buildings in eastern Poland near the Belarus border. The furthest drone struck 300km into Polish territory.

Polish prime minister Donald Tusk described the incident as "a large-scale provocation". It marks the first time in Nato history that its members engaged enemy targets within alliance territory.

Mixed messages

Russia and its ally Belarus, the origin of the majority of the drones, sent mixed messages yesterday.

Minsk acknowledged launching drones. It said electronic interference made them drift off course and that it had informed neighbouring Poland.

"This allowed the Polish side to respond promptly to the actions of the drones by scrambling their forces on duty," said the Belarus defence ministry in a statement.



■ A Polish police officer next to a fragment of a Russian drone shot down by Nato-allied planes in Czesniki, Lublin Voivodeship.

PHOTOGRAPH: POLSAT/REUTERS

Moscow said it had "no intention to engage any targets on the territory of Poland".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to confirm or deny Russian involvement, and accused European Union and Nato leaders instead of making baseless accusations against Russia "on a daily basis".

Polish investigators said the first drone parts recovered carried "Cyrillic writing" on their shells, but provided no other details.

European Nato leaders were

quick to condemn the attack, while US president Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social platform: "What's with Russia violating Poland's airspace with drones? Here we go!"

Yesterday evening Mr Trump spoke by telephone with his Polish counterpart, Karol Nawrocki, about what Mr Nawrocki described in a subsequent statement as "the multiple violations of Polish airspace by Russian drones".

"Today's talks confirmed allied unity," added Mr Nawrocki. Earlier, US ambassador to Nato, Matthew Whitaker, assured Warsaw of America's readiness to defend Poland.

Yesterday morning, after a night of alarms and uncertainty, Poland triggered article 4 of the Nato treaty to open a formal

discussion within the alliance. This is only the eighth time this article has been invoked since Nato was founded in 1949.

Warsaw stopped short of triggering the article 5 mutual defence clause, though the Nato response yesterday included

Inside Page 9

■ Poland scrambles Nato jets in response to 'large-scale provocation'

■ Tusk warns Poles to 'prepare for various scenarios' **Analysis, Derek Scally**

■ Editorial comment: page 13

Polish F-16 fighters, Dutch F-35 fighters, Italian air surveillance aircraft and a German air defence system.

Leading government officials in Poland and other Nato capitals said they were awaiting a full military assessment but it was unlikely so many drones could cross the border without intent.

'Absolutely dangerous'

"It is absolutely reckless, it is absolutely dangerous," Nato's Mr Rutte said at a press conference. He told Russian president Vladimir Putin: "Stop violating allied airspace. And know that we stand ready, that we are vigilant and that we will defend every inch of Nato territory."

In Poland's eastern regions, locals reported a night of

explosions and unfamiliar aircraft engine noise.

"There was such a loud explosion . . . and this flash around 3am," Piotr Urbanik, from the town of Dub, 40km from the Belarus border, told TVN24 television. "My first thought was that it was an outbreak of war."

Poland closed four airports, including in Warsaw, for "operational reasons" causing delays throughout the day.

Rift emerges between DAA board and CEO

JOE BRENNAN,
ARTHUR BEESLEY
and MARTIN WALL

A serious rift has opened up between the board of the DAA and Kenny Jacobs, chief executive of the State-owned operator of Dublin and Cork airports.

The rift centres on business matters in an organisation facing challenges to advance complex infrastructure and litigation over the 32 million annual passenger cap that limits airport growth.

The tensions have been brought to the attention of senior Government figures, prompting concern about the risk of disruption at the top of the semi-State company.

Multiple sources said the matter was the subject of ongoing board engagements, with a "large majority" of directors said to be unhappy with the emergence of divisions.

Responding to direct questions about the rift, a DAA spokeswoman said: "Kenny Jacobs is and remains the DAA CEO. We cannot comment on board matters, which are confidential, however, robust discussions can and do occur which is the sign of a functioning board."

Mr Jacobs did not respond to a phone call and text message from The Irish Times.

The DAA submitted a €2.4 billion investment plan to Fingal County Council in late 2023. The local authority has said the process is stalled because noise regulators await documentation from the DAA.

The proposed development includes upgrades to terminal

one, a new pier at terminal two and a tunnel under the airport's "crosswind" runway.

At the same time, the DAA is struggling to secure permission from the council to increase the annual passenger limit at Dublin Airport to 40 million from 32 million.

The cap was imposed by planners in 2007 as a condition for allowing the airport's second terminal to proceed. It was breached last year when 33.3 million passengers came through the airport, leading the local authority to issue an enforcement notice in July.

The DAA recently resolved to initiate a High Court judicial review over the enforcement notice. The cap was supposed to allay fears over traffic congestion around the airport but roads have since been upgraded.

While Fingal has yet to decide on DAA's application to lift the cap, the restriction has effectively been paused since April following various legal challenges. One aspect of the case now awaits a ruling from the European courts.

The Fingal enforcement order allows a two-year period to comply with the passenger capacity conditions, even as the cap suspension remains in place.

Mr Jacobs, from Cork, was named as DAA chief executive in late 2022 in succession to Dalton Philips. His seven-year term started in January 2023.

He previously worked for more than six years at Ryanair as its chief marketing officer.

➔ **Dublin Airport promises parking refunds after overcharging: page 18**

Farmers on Shannon pipeline route to get €100,000

KEVIN O'SULLIVAN
Environment and Science Editor

Farmers and landowners are to benefit from an average payout of €100,000 each after reaching a deal on land access for the development of a new Shannon water pipeline.

Ireland's main farming organisations announced the agreement with Uisce Éireann on a voluntary land and financial "wayleave package" yesterday.

It is to compensate those affected along the route of the proposed pipeline from the river Shannon to the Greater Dub-

lin Area. It is understood the overall value of the package is in the region of €42 million, meaning the 500 farmers and landowners affected stand to bank average windfalls of about €100,000. This includes the value of the package, which is €218.25 per linear metre.

The agreement reached with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) is expected to reduce greatly the likelihood of objections to the 170km (105-mile) pipeline.

Known as the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands

Region, the infrastructure has a current cost estimate, excluding contingency allowances, of just over €3 billion.

Worst-case scenario

However, the Department of Housing warned the Public Accounts Committee earlier this year that it could exceed €10 billion in a worst-case scenario. It is expected to clear planning by 2027.

The deal for potentially more than 500 farmers and landowners includes an early sign-on payment, a "wayleave" payment, a crop loss and disturbance payment and a special

goodwill payment. There are additional payments for those who will have ancillary elements on their land, such as valves, wash-out chambers and lay-bys. It will be up to individual landowners to sign up for payments.

During negotiations, the IFA and ICMSA expressed concern over implications for farmers if there were long delays to the planning or with the pipeline being completed. The package provides for inflation and consumer price indexation for goodwill payments after 2030.

The water is due to be extracted at Parteen Basin in Co Tip-

perary and treated at a plant in nearby Birdhill, before being piped to Peamount in Co Dublin - while also supplying towns in the midlands.

Campaign groups in Co Tipperary oppose the project, claiming it will damage thousands of hectares of agricultural land and have a negative ecological impact on the Shannon.

The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) is facing increasing water supply issues due to urban expansion and industrial development, along with overreliance on the river Liffey and a high level of leakage in the capital's supply system.

Weather

Cool and breezy, with sunny spells and showers in the west becoming widespread by early afternoon. Highs of 13-16.

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Home News

Population: The State's population could grow to 7.6m by 2065 if current migration trends continue, according to new research. **Page 2**

Employment: An official says the failure to reappoint him is a 'terrible attack' on the Labour Court's independence. **Page 4**

World News



US: Prominent US conservative commentator Charlie Kirk was fatally shot while speaking at a campus event at Utah Valley University yesterday. **Page 9**

Business + Technology

Inheritance: Charities want a three-point deduction on the rate of inheritance tax charged to families where money is allocated for good causes in a will. **Page 15**

Music industry: Accumulated profits at Christy Moore's music firm increased to €3.18m this year. **Page 15**

Sports Thursday

Golf: Trump International Golf Links in Doonbeg, Co Clare - owned by the US president - will host next year's Irish Open. **Page 23**

Soccer: Ireland manager Heimir Hallgrímsson said the Armenia result is 'probably down to old scars' from previous losses. **Page 19**

CHRISTY

11 NIGHTS AT VICAR ST

2025
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