



**Submission to An Taoiseach
on Heathrow Accessibility
26th January 2015**

Dear Taoiseach,

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland wishes to express its support for the Government's ongoing commitment to retaining and winning inward investment to grow employment in a regionally balanced manner. In that context, we would be concerned at the implications for Ireland's international connectedness from any dilution or loss of capacity to London Heathrow.

Ireland's accessibility to international aviation gateways is an important part of our competitive offering to retain and win inward investment. In the latest DHL Global Connectedness Index 2014 survey, Ireland ranked second overall out of a pool of 140 nations. Global connectivity is a metric of globalization and can serve as an engine of growth; global connectedness is closely correlated to a nation's or region's economic development, real growth and per capita income. The more connected/integrated an economy or region is to the broader global economy, the better the prospects for foreign direct investment-led growth. Most especially, the Cork and Shannon airport hubs offer their hinterland accessible international services to business centres around the world via their valuable connections to Heathrow. They are a vital part of the region's infrastructure.

As the Government considers the issues related to the future of Aer Lingus, we would ask you to keep the implications for international aviation accessibility to the fore and we make ourselves available to you and your officials for any consultations on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Eamonn Sinnott,

President