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Safety Recommendation Status:	Not accepted, closed

Safety Recommendation:

Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) should review the provision of medical services at Dublin Airport.

Response:

The DAA responded to the AAIU, in a letter dated 23 August 2010, stating:

“The relevant medical authority is the HSE. Our nearest (substantial) medical facility is

Beaumont Hospital. It provides acute medical care in the Hospital only and does not provide medical care outside the hospital. In the event of a major incident (Distress) at Dublin Airport they are the first receiving hospital for casualties and as such will keep all their resources there.

The HSE, through the Ambulance Service, sends a Senior Ambulance Officer to the airport to evaluate the medical needs of the situation. If required after initial assessment, medical teams would be requested from South Side Hospitals. The HSE also arranges any specialist care as required.

Paramedics will always assess the initial medical needs of patients in emergency situations and if required will request a medical team. You will be aware that Dublin Airport has 3 categories of call for aircraft incidents

- Local Stand by
- Emergency
- Distress

We only inform Beaumont Hospital in a Distress situation. When informed, the hospital implements its own local procedures.

In the above incident, ATC declared a Distress. DFB, Gardai and the HSE were all

informed. The aircraft was about 20 minutes from landing, which meant that all services had enough time to reach the RV point at the airport.

A Senior Ambulance Officer from the HSE went on board the aircraft on landing, along with our own paramedics, and carried out an assessment of the medical needs of the passengers. At that point all passengers were asked if they required any medical attention. No passenger needed or requested medical attention.

Dublin Airport carried out its procedures as outlined above, and after review, [...] do not believe that there is any need to revise any of our procedures. The role of Beaumont Hospital in the event of a distress call is very clear and [...] understand that they also followed their procedures in this incident.”A

AAIU Comment:

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be ‘Not accepted closed’