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# Aer Lingus CEO to step down

By **Rachel Debling** on October, 11 2018 | Airline & Terminal News



Stephen Kavanagh, Aer Lingus CEO

[International Airlines Group](#) (IAG) has announced that [Aer Lingus](#) CEO Stephen Kavanagh will be leaving his position on January 1, 2019 to pursue other interests. He will remain on the airline's board as a non-executive director, and British Airways' Sean Doyle will step into the CEO role Kavanagh is vacating.

Willie Walsh, IAG chief executive and Aer Lingus chairman, noted in a statement: "Stephen has been an exceptional chief executive and has transformed and modernized Aer Lingus. After a 30-year career, he has decided to step down. We wish him all the very best for the future and heartfelt thanks for all his outstanding achievements. We're delighted that Stephen will remain on Aer Lingus' board and provide advice and guidance to the airline"

Kavanagh also commented: "After a 30-year career in Aer Lingus with the last four years as chief executive, I've taken the decision to step down to pursue other interests. By any objective measure

Aer Lingus has been successful in recent years and continues to have significant opportunity to build upon the strong fundamentals of our value model. I'd like to thank all those who have provided support and guidance during my time in Aer Lingus. I look forward to working with Sean as he transitions into his new role and wish him and all my colleagues continued success."

"Sean has successfully held a variety of roles within British Airways, acquiring significant expertise and experience, which makes him ideally suited to lead Aer Lingus," Walsh added. "I am pleased that Aer Lingus chief operating officer, Mike Rutter, has extended his contract and will work with Sean to ensure that the airline continues to deliver its strong performance".