

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Re: FOI Request 412**

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body:

**Request**

All relevant documentation relating to: All documents and correspondence related to complaints made about the level crossing located at Kilnageer, Breaghwy, County Mayo by the public and/or elected **representatives since January 2015**.

I Heidi Reardon, Decision Maker for the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann have now made a final decision to **part grant** your request on **4<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

You have sought access to the records above and **I consider this an appropriate form of access in this case**. Accordingly, a copy of the records is now enclosed including a copy of the schedule to these records.

**Rights of appeal**

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the FOI Unit, Corporate Communications, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Connolly Station, Amiens St, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to [foi@irishrail.ie](mailto:foi@irishrail.ie). You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the FOI Officer on 01 7034293.

Yours sincerely,



Heidi Reardon

**PA to Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann / CEO's Decision Maker**

Freedom of Information Request: Schedule of Records for IE_FOI_412 : Summary for Decision Making							
Record No.	Date of Record Received	From	Brief Description : Kilnageer Railway Crossing	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
No	Date	Incoming & Response to Queries	Subject				
1	14.05.2020	Brendan Morley - DTTAS - Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
2	14.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Robert Kelly IE	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
3	14.05.2020	Robert Kelly IE - Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
4	15.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	5	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
5	15.05.2020	Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
6	18.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
7	18.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
8	18.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
9	19.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
10	20.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	2	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
11	20.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
12	20.05.2020	Request from Dara Calleary TD & Response from Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
13	20.05.2020	Request from Brendan Griffin TD - Alan Dillon TD & Response from Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
14	20.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
15	20.05.2020	Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
16	20.05.2020	Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
17	28.05.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
18	03.06.2020	Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
19	05.06.2020	CEO Road Safety Authority - Jim Meade CEO IE	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
20	09.06.2020	Eamonn Balance CCE IE - Liam Hickey Infrastructure Manager Athlone	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Correspondence - Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
21	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Griffin TD - Alan Dillon TD	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting	5	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
22	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Michael Ring TD	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
23	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
24	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
25	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - CEO RSA	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	5	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
26	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
27	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - CEO Irish Wheelchair Association	Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240	6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
28	23.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240	6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
29	25.06.2020	Brendan Morley - DTTAS - Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo - Alan Dillon TD	5	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
30	25.06.2020	Barry Kenny Corporate Communications Manager IE - Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Minutes of Meeting on 24th June	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
31	25.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo - Alan Dillon TD	4	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
32	25.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Brendan Morley - DTTAS	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo - Alan Dillon TD	8	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
33	25.06.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Query regarding Crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo - Alan Dillon TD	8	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
34	09.07.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Alan Dillon TD	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
35	28.07.2020	Kilnageer Rail Safety - Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
36	29.07.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting	1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
37	27.09.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - IE Colleagues	Alan Dillon TD - Kilnageer Railway Crossing	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
38	13.10.2020	Liam Hickey Infrastructure Manager - Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE	XM 240 - Kilnageer - Minutes of Meeting	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
39	13.10.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Alan Dillon TD	Kilnageer Level Crossing - Interim Report - Minutes of Meeting	3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
40	22.10.2020	Heidi Reardon CEO Office IE - Liam Hickey Liam Hickey Infrastructure Manager & Cathal Mangan CCE Technical Manager	IE_FOI_412 - Memo - Kilnageer Railway Crossing	2	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
				6	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
41	10.06.2020	CEOs Executive Management Meeting - Executive Group	Action - 3075	1	Grant		
	07.07.2020	CEOs Executive Management Meeting - July Executive Group - Reports Updated	Extracts of Pages referred to				
42	08.05.2020	Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy		1	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
43	12.05.2020	Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy1		3	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
44	23.06.2020	Mayo Co Co Presentation	Page 1	11	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information
45	08.05.2020	Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy		2	Part Grant	Section 37 - Personal Information	Personal Information

**Signed:** Heidi Reardon CEO Office, CEO's FOI Decision Maker  
17th November 2020

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice  
**Date:** Thursday 14 May 2020 09:31:03

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Good morning, [REDACTED]

I hope you and yours are well.

We have had a couple of queries in regarding this crossing in Mayo. Below is CRR's response.

Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?

Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 May 2020 08:41  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
Hi [REDACTED]

Further to your email regarding the rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, County Mayo, we believe this query is in relation to XM240. The warning lights which have been installed at the user worked level crossing will provide the level crossing user with improved information as to when it is not safe to cross. Interim operation for the warning lights at this crossing has been granted by the CRR. Irish Rail are in the process of carrying out their communications plan for the warning lights system at this crossing prior to the system going into operation.

If you need anything further from the CRR, please let me know,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 13 May 2020 13:36  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. We have received further correspondence re this issue, this time from a Mayo TD seeking a meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding this crossing.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
Thanks, [REDACTED],

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
Hi [REDACTED],

I'll follow up in this and come back to you as quickly as I can,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 10:30

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I am just checking in to see if you have been able to make any progress on this inquiry?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 12:50

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you could advise me of any information or update that CRR has concerning this issue of safety at a rail crossing in Mayo, which has been brought to [REDACTED] attention.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope all is well with you and everything is going ok under the current circumstances. I wonder could I seek your advice on something. An issue was raised with us around a rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra in County Mayo. There are approximately 40 people living on this stretch of road (a number of them older people) and last week there was another near miss in terms of a car getting hit at the junction. The crossing is manual and older people (and others) have to physically open and close the gates when crossing the junction. Apparently lights were installed last year but they are now covered over and not functioning. It was raised with us as they have tried to resolve it at local level and haven't had any success and hence they have asked us for guidance. It has the highest incidences of near misses in the country and is dangerous (and cumbersome for older people). I am just wondering would there be any way we could check if it is on the schedule for installation of the automatic system or if it has been prioritised. I know there is a programme of works for upgrades this year so it may very well be on the schedule and if not maybe Irish Rail are not fully aware of the dangers around it. Any help or direction you could give me [REDACTED] would be very much appreciated

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Query | Seeking Advice  
**Date:** Thursday 14 May 2020 15:12:52

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you are well.

Please see below from the DTTAS, I understand you have been liaising with the CRR on this issue can you advise me on the two queries below?

Thanks

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 09:31

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

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**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** 14 May 2020 08:41

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

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Regards,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
Thanks, [REDACTED],  
Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
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Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

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Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chief Officer  
Age Friendly Ireland  
Meath County Council

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice  
**Date:** Thursday 14 May 2020 16:50:09

---

Hi [REDACTED]

All good, hope you well also.

In response to the two queries below.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

It is intended to make the DSS (Decision Support System - which the warning lights are the visual aid element) operational during week commencing May18th.

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

The DSS system itself includes for permanent information/usage signage positioned at the crossing. This signage is currently installed at XM240 as part of the system, however temporarily covered until the system goes operational.

I trust the above is satisfactory.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*Specialist Engineer, CCE Technical Department  
Iarnród Éireann Infrastructure, Engineering & New Works Building, CIÉ Works, Inchicore, Dublin 8.*

 [REDACTED] [.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)  [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:13

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you are well.

Please see below from the DTTAS, I understand you have been liaising with the CRR on this issue can you advise me on the two queries below?

Thanks

Regards,

[REDACTED]

 00 [REDACTED] Exec [REDACTED] Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
 [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 09:31

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Good morning, [REDACTED]

I hope you and yours are well.

We have had a couple of queries in regarding this crossing in Mayo. Below is CRR's response.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 08:41

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to your email regarding the rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, County Mayo, we believe this query is in relation to XM240. The warning lights which have been installed at the user worked level crossing will provide the level crossing user with improved information as to when it is not safe to cross. Interim operation for the warning lights at this crossing has been granted by the CRR. Irish Rail are in the process of carrying out their communications plan for the warning lights system at this crossing prior to the system going into operation.

If you need anything further from the CRR, please let me know,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday 13 May 2020 13:36

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. We have received further correspondence re this issue, this time from a Mayo TD seeking a meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding this crossing.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:53

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Thanks, [REDACTED],

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:52

**To:** MORLEY Brendan

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I'll follow up in this and come back to you as quickly as I can,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 10:30

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I am just checking in to see if you have been able to make any progress on this inquiry?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 12:50

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you could advise me of any information or update that



CRR has concerning this issue of safety at a rail crossing in Mayo, which has been brought to [REDACTED] attention.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I hope all is well with you and everything is going ok under the current circumstances. I wonder could I seek your advice on something. An issue was raised with us around a rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra in County Mayo. There are approximately 40 people living on this stretch of road (a number of them older people) and last week there was another near miss in terms of a car getting hit at the junction. The crossing is manual and older people (and others) have to physically open and close the gates when crossing the junction. Apparently lights were installed last year but they are now covered over and not functioning. It was raised with us as they have tried to resolve it at local level and haven't had any success and hence they have asked us for guidance. It has the highest incidences of near misses in the country and is dangerous (and cumbersome for older people). I am just wondering would there be any way we could check if it is on the schedule for installation of the automatic system or if it has been prioritised. I know there is a programme of works for upgrades this year so it may very well be on the schedule and if not maybe Irish Rail are not fully aware of the dangers around it. Any help or direction you could give me [REDACTED] would be very much appreciated

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Query | Seeking Advice  
**Date:** Friday 15 May 2020 11:34:22

---

Hi [REDACTED]

I spoke with [REDACTED] who was dealing with the CRR. Response to the two queries as below.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] W: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:50 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],  
All good, hope you well also.  
In response to the two queries below.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

It is intended to make the DSS (Decision Support System - which the warning lights are the visual aid element) operational during week commencing May18th.

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

The DSS system itself includes for permanent information/usage signage positioned at the crossing. This signage is currently installed at XM240 as part of the system, however temporarily covered until the system goes operational.

I trust the above is satisfactory.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

*Specialist Engineer, CCE Technical Department  
Iarnród Éireann Infrastructure, Engineering & New Works Building, CIÉ Works, Inchicore, Dublin 8.*

**📞:** [REDACTED] **🌐:** [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]  
Hope you are well.

Please see below from the DTTAS, I understand you have been liaising with the CRR on this issue can you advise me on the two queries below?

Thanks

Regards,

[Redacted]

Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 09:31

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Good morning, [Redacted]

I hope you and yours are well.

We have had a couple of queries in regarding this crossing in Mayo. Below is CRR's response.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 08:41

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [Redacted],

Further to your email regarding the rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, County Mayo, we believe this query is in relation to XM240. The warning lights which have been installed at the user worked level crossing will provide the level crossing user with improved information as to when it is not safe to cross. Interim operation for the warning lights at this crossing has been granted by the CRR. Irish Rail are in the process of carrying out their communications plan for the warning lights system at this crossing prior to the system going into operation.

If you need anything further from the CRR, please let me know,

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday 13 May 2020 13:36

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [Redacted]

I hope you are well. We have received further correspondence re this issue, this time from a Mayo TD seeking a meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding this crossing.

Regards,

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:53

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Thanks, [Redacted]

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:52

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [Redacted]

I'll follow up in this and come back to you as quickly as I can,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 10:30

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I am just checking in to see if you have been able to make any progress on this inquiry?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 12:50

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you could advise me of any information or update that CRR has concerning this issue of safety at a rail crossing in Mayo, which has been brought to [REDACTED] attention.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope all is well with you and everything is going ok under the current circumstances. I wonder could I seek your advice on something. An issue was raised with us around a rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra in County Mayo. There are approximately 40 people living on this stretch of road (a number of them older people) and last week there was another near miss in terms of a car getting hit at the junction. The crossing is manual and older people (and others) have to physically open and close the gates when crossing the junction. Apparently lights were installed last year but they are now covered over and not functioning. It was raised with us as they have tried to resolve it at local level and haven't had any success and hence they have asked us for guidance. It has the highest incidences of near misses in the country and is dangerous (and cumbersome for older people). I am just wondering would there be any way we could check if it is on the schedule for installation of the automatic system or if it has been prioritised. I know there is a programme of works for upgrades this year so it may very well be on the schedule and if not maybe Irish Rail are not fully aware of the dangers around it. Any help or direction you could give me [REDACTED] would be very much appreciated

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear

nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Friday 15 May 2020 14:28:51

---

A Chara,

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line, along with non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Irish Rail's latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

As a community we view this as a matter of grave concern and have raised it with our local authority, elected representatives, Minister [REDACTED] Minister [REDACTED], Age Friendly Ireland, IWA, CRR, and the Road Safety Authority.

It would be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view of assisting us in our objective of preventing loss of life. In this regard, we would appreciate if we could meet with you to discuss the matter in person and take on board any advice you may care to offer.

We would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us,  
[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Belcarra crossing in Mayo  
**Date:** Monday 18 May 2020 15:13:49

---

Hi [REDACTED]

I have 4 residents and 4 TDs on since Friday regarding this to respond to, can you advise who you are dealing with ?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:07

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Belcarra crossing in Mayo

Good afternoon, [REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I passed on the information you kindly provided regarding the DSS system at the Belcarra crossing in Mayo to the originator of the query.

She has now reverted to ask if Iarnród Éireann has any plan to install an automatic barrier system at this location.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**  
*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*  
Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

---

[REDACTED]

[www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 11:34

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fwd: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I spoke with [REDACTED] who was dealing with the CRR. Response to the two queries as below.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:50 p.m.

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],

All good, hope you well also.

In response to the two queries below.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

It is intended to make the DSS (Decision Support System - which the warning lights are the visual aid element) operational during week commencing May18th.

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

The DSS system itself includes for permanent information/usage signage positioned at the crossing. This signage is currently installed at XM240 as part of the system, however temporarily covered until the system goes operational.

I trust the above is satisfactory.

Regards,

[Redacted]

*Specialist Engineer, CCE Technical Department*

*Iarnród Éireann Infrastructure, Engineering & New Works Building, CIÉ Works, Inchicore, Dublin 8.*

[Redacted]

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:13

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [Redacted]

Hope you are well.

Please see below from the DTTAS, I understand you have been liaising with the CRR on this issue can you advise me on the two queries below?

Thanks

Regards,

[Redacted]

Exec

onnolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 09:31

**To:** [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Good morning, [Redacted],

I hope you and yours are well.

We have had a couple of queries in regarding this crossing in Mayo. Below is CRR's response.

**Could you tell me when the warning lights are expected to become operational, please?**

**Does the IE communication plan referred to mean signage around the crossing?**

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 08:41

**To:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [Redacted]

Further to your email regarding the rail crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, County Mayo, we believe this query is in relation to XM240. The warning lights which have been installed at the user worked level crossing will provide the level crossing user with improved information as to when it is not safe to cross. Interim operation for the warning lights at this crossing has been granted by the CRR. Irish Rail are in the process of carrying out their communications plan for the

warning lights system at this crossing prior to the system going into operation.  
If you need anything further from the CRR, please let me know,  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday 13 May 2020 13:36

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. We have received further correspondence re this issue, this time from a Mayo TD seeking a meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding this crossing.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:53

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Thanks, [REDACTED],

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 12:52

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED]

I'll follow up in this and come back to you as quickly as I can,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 10:30

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. I am just checking in to see if you have been able to make any progress on this inquiry?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 12:50

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Query | Seeking Advice

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you are well. I would be grateful if you could advise me of any information or update that CRR has concerning this issue of safety at a rail crossing in Mayo, which has been brought to [REDACTED] attention.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope all is well with you and everything is going ok under the current circumstances. I wonder could I seek your advice on something. An issue was raised with us around a rail crossing at

Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra in County Mayo. There are approximately 40 people living on this stretch of road (a number of them older people) and last week there was another near miss in terms of a car getting hit at the junction. The crossing is manual and older people (and others) have to physically open and close the gates when crossing the junction. Apparently lights were installed last year but they are now covered over and not functioning. It was raised with us as they have tried to resolve it at local level and haven't had any success and hence they have asked us for guidance. It has the highest incidences of near misses in the country and is dangerous (and cumbersome for older people). I am just wondering would there be any way we could check if it is on the schedule for installation of the automatic system or if it has been prioritised. I know there is a programme of works for upgrades this year so it may very well be on the schedule and if not maybe Irish Rail are not fully aware of the dangers around it. Any help or direction you could give me [REDACTED] would be very much appreciated

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Chief Officer  
Age Friendly Ireland  
Meath County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

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le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, claithe in Eirinn ag Staisiun Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Ur. 119571 Ur. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na

ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Monday 18 May 2020 16:02:04  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Thanks [REDACTED] – Attached FYI I recieved this.

I will be responding to all on Wednesday once I get confirmation everyone is sorted.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know Kevin had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call [REDACTED] if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Chief Officer  
Age Friendly Ireland  
Meath County Council  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)  
**Twitter:** @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train. Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**  
*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday 14 May 2020 15:58:07  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Minister [REDACTED] has received representation from [REDACTED] TD (below). The Department of Transport has recently raised a query with the Commission for Railway Regulation, which is the National Safety Authority for the rail sector, regarding this crossing and are awaiting the CRR's response.

Minister [REDACTED] would like Iarnród Éireann to arrange meeting with Deputy [REDACTED] in regards to Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
*Minister of State Office*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**  
*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*  
Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2020 17:45  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 15:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED] TD

Dear [REDACTED]

I ask for your guidance and support to facilitate a meeting with Senior members of Irish Rail to conduct a detailed review of the notorious Kilnageer unmanned railway level crossing with members from Mayo Local Authority and the Community at their earliest opportunity.

From listening to the community concerns this is an on-going problem for generations and Irish Rail is failing to recognise the case being made by the community. It is crucial to understand the challenges Kilnageer railway crossing presents to the community and devise a roadmap on how both stakeholders can work on an acceptable solution to remove health and safety concerns

Kilnageer is located on the busy LS760 roadway between the villages of Breaffy and Belcarra. This road has become considerably busier in recent times due to the post office in Belcarra closing and people having to travel the short distance to Breaffy for postal services.

The point was firmly made that me at this local TD at a recent meeting that Irish Rail's insistence that every motorist crossing the line should open and close the two gates every time only served to increase the potential for a fatality.

The community understand the laws governing unmanned level crossings but asking people in this present climate to complete such a task on such a busy roadway increases the likelihood of more serious accidents occurring.

The extent of the health and safety threat at Kilnageer is very serious and the commissioning of new warning lights and signs which have been left lying idle at the location for over six months is not the permanent solution many locals in the areas will not accept.


It is at the request of the community to engage with Irish rail and my responsibility to facilitate this process.

The community were united in their view to do whatever it takes for Irish Rail to understand the

scale of the health and safety risk at the crossing.

Please feel free to call me at any stage for further details, it's my intention to have this meeting with Irish Rail as soon as possible without delay.

Kind Regards,

A screenshot of a cell phone  Description automatically generated

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<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Monday 18 May 2020 16:19:55

---

Can you give me a quick call there is a bit of confusion regarding this.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 16:12  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED],  
Does "everyone" here include [REDACTED]? If so, I should probably inform her that IE will reply directly to her.

Prior to sending out my reply to [REDACTED] on Friday, I briefly spoke to your engineer, [REDACTED] to ask him to explain, in layman terms, what was being put in place at this crossing – which he did – and to confirm that the communications referred to physical signage at the location. He was very helpful and informative and my reply to [REDACTED] was based on your email and that conversation.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 16:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
Thanks [REDACTED] – Attached FYI I recieved this.

I will be responding to all on Wednesday once I get confirmation everyone is sorted.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED] a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term

solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know Kevin had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call [REDACTED] if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)

**Twitter:** @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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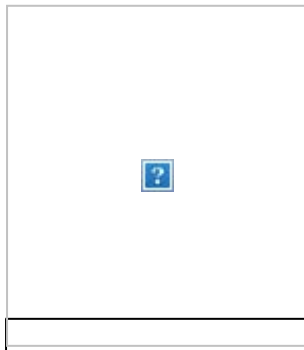
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Dublin Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

\*\*\*\*\*

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Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Correspondence  
**Date:** Tuesday 19 May 2020 13:18:09  
**Attachments:** [Rail crossing Belcarra Co. Mayo.msg](#)

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All

Just FYI I know some of you have received some correspondence regarding Kilnageer so just so we are all on the same page regarding responses:

15.05 20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting	<b>CEO Office to Respond</b>
15.05 20	Kilnageer Railsafety Group 4 Residents	Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting	Myself and [REDACTED] will use with the information you have all provided and <b>CEO Office will respond</b> to the 4 Residents and cc you.
14.05 20	[REDACTED]	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	<b>CEO Office to Respond</b>
I have received nothing directly on this issue but have been asked by DTTAS for info <i>(supplied to me by [REDACTED])</i>	Mayo & Meath Councils	Kilnageer Railway Crossing	[REDACTED] dealing directly. Note the DTTAS are liaising with CRR & [REDACTED] of Meath County Council <i>Copy for your information attached.</i>

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Chief Executive Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

██████████

From: [REDACTED]  
 To: [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 1  
**To:** [REDACTED]

© 2006 The Authors

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ["Kilnageer Railsafety"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 14:27:33  
**Attachments:** [Railsafety Kilnageer Group - Railway Crossing Kilnageer - 20.05.20.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

onnolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [mailto:[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 14:20

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing

A Chara,

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line, along with non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Irish Rail's latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

As a community we view this as a matter of grave concern and have raised it with our local authority, elected representatives, Minister [REDACTED] Minister [REDACTED], DFL, Age Friendly Ireland, IWA, CRR, and the Road Safety Authority.

It would be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view of assisting us in our objective of preventing loss of life. In this regard, we would appreciate if we could meet with you to discuss the matter in person and take on board any advice you may care to offer.

We would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us, [railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] )

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15<sup>th</sup> May regarding Kilnageer Level Crossing.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[REDACTED]

**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 14:29:53  
**Attachments:** [Railsafety Kilnageer Group - Railway Crossing Kilnageer - 20.05.20.pdf](#)

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Copy of correspondence issued FYI.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2020 14:28  
**To:** 'Kilnageer Railsafety' <[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer Railway Crossing

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec [REDACTED] Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
📍 [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [<mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 14:20

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
A Chara,

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line, along with non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

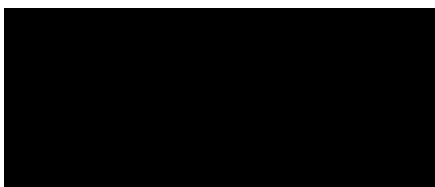
We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Irish Rail's latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

As a community we view this as a matter of grave concern and have raised it with our local authority, elected representatives, Minister Brendan Griffin T.D., Minister Michael Ring T.D., DFL, Age Friendly Ireland, IWA, CRR, and the Road Safety Authority.

It would be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view of assisting us in our objective of preventing loss of life. In this regard, we would appreciate if we could meet with you to discuss the matter in person and take on board any advice you may care to offer.

We would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us,  
[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

Yours faithfully,







[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear ,

Thank you for your email of 15<sup>th</sup> May regarding Kilnageer Level Crossing.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

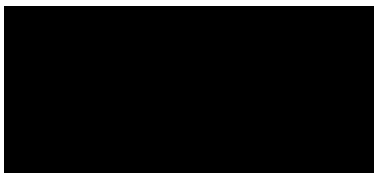
This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 15:39:06  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[REDACTED] - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Donnelly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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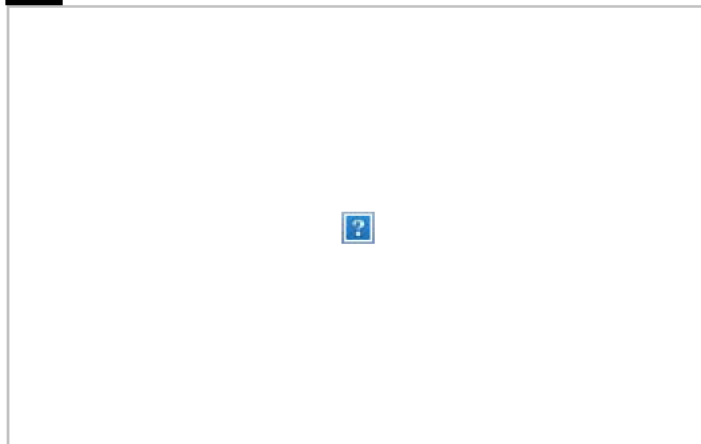
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:09  
**To:** IE Oireachtas Liaison <oireachtasliaison@irishrail.ie>  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo

A Chara,

I'd appreciate clarification on Irish Rails position on this crossing.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



:

Thanks a million for taking my call this evening. As discussed on 29th April last a serious incident occurred at an unmanned railway crossing at Kilnageer, Belcarra, Co Mayo. The afternoon train on the Westport Dublin line collided with a car at this junction, thankfully no serious injury resulted from the incident. The level crossing in question records one of the highest number of near miss incidents on all such crossings in the country and as a community we fear it is just a

matter of time before there is serious injury or loss of life resulting from an incident. the road in question is the L5760 and the crossing number is XM240.

Belcarra Community Council have endeavoured to engage with Irish Rail over several years to have this crossing made safe through the installation of an automatic barrier system to no avail. In [2019 Irish](#) Rail carried out works to instal a train detection warning lights system on the junction but these lights remain covered in plastic and have not been commissioned as I write to you this evening. An article posted online today in the Connacht Telegraph states that Irish Rail intend to have the system operational in the week commencing [18th May](#).

A core issue for the community is that this system still places an inordinate level of responsibility for safety on the citizen in that as a road user you are still responsible for the opening and closing of manual gates on either side of the track as you cross the line. This is not a practical solution for so many of our residents with varying needs such as parents travelling alone with young children, road users with a disability or mobility issues (we have one resident who is a wheelchair user on the road), and in particular our older residents. Getting out of your car at the junction to open and close two sets of gates at any time, but particularly at times of bad weather or in the dark at night places a high risk of an adverse incident on citizens and we feel that this is not acceptable in 2020. Added to this the closure of the post office in Belcarra in 2019 has meant that our older residents must now use this road to travel to Breaffy Post Office to collect their weekly pension.

There are approximately 40 houses on this road and these houses have approximately 60 cars between them so it is a reasonably busy road. This is a multi agency issue that crosses the responsibility of Irish Rail, The Road Safety Authority, the Commission for Railway Regulation, An Garda Síochána and Mayo County Council. I would be very grateful if you could have this matter raised through the Fianna Fáil party as a means of generating support for a small rural community in Mayo who just want to protect the health and safety of all our residents, particularly those who are vulnerable road users.

██████████  
████████████████████  
  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 15th May regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

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Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

████████████████████  
  
**Chief Executive**

**From:** [IE Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 16:06:08  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[REDACTED] [Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has received representation from [REDACTED] (below). The Department of Transport has recently raised a query with the Commission for Railway Regulation, which is the National Safety Authority for the rail sector, regarding this crossing and are awaiting the CRR's response.

[REDACTED] would like Iarnród Éireann to arrange meeting with [REDACTED] in regards to Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
*Minister of State Office*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**  
*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*  
Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

[REDACTED] [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2020 17:45  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 15:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

Dear Minister,

I ask for your guidance and support to facilitate a meeting with Senior members of Irish Rail to conduct a detailed review of the notorious Kilnageer unmanned railway level crossing with members from Mayo Local Authority and the Community at their earliest opportunity.

From listening to the community concerns this is an on-going problem for generations and Irish Rail is failing to recognise the case being made by the community. It is crucial to understand the challenges Kilnageer railway crossing presents to the community and devise a roadmap on how both stakeholders can work on an acceptable solution to remove health and safety concerns. Kilnageer is located on the busy LS760 roadway between the villages of Breaffy and Belcarra. This road has become considerably busier in recent times due to the post office in Belcarra closing and people having to travel the short distance to Breaffy for postal services.

The point was firmly made that me at this local TD at a recent meeting that Irish Rail's insistence that

every motorist crossing the line should open and close the two gates every time only served to increase the potential for a fatality.

The community understand the laws governing unmanned level crossings but asking people in this present climate to complete such a task on such a busy roadway increases the likelihood of more serious accidents occurring.

The extent of the health and safety threat at Kilnageer is very serious and the commissioning of new warning lights and signs which have been left lying idle at the location for over six months is not the permanent solution many locals in the areas will not accept.

It is at the request of the community to engage with Irish rail and my responsibility to facilitate this process.

The community were united in their view to do whatever it takes for Irish Rail to understand the scale of the health and safety risk at the crossing.

Please feel free to call me at any stage for further details, it's my intention to have this meeting with Irish Rail as soon as possible without delay.

Kind Regards,

A screenshot of a cell phone  Description automatically generated



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy [REDACTED],

I refer to your email of 12<sup>th</sup> May to Minister [REDACTED] regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[REDACTED]  
**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 16:07:38  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED] - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf  
image001.jpg

---

Hi [REDACTED]

As promised, please find attached copy of letter sent just now to Deputy [REDACTED] regarding Kilnageer.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED],

[REDACTED] a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17

**To:** MORLEY Brendan

**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know [REDACTED] had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call [REDACTED] if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)

**Twitter:** @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

**From:** [REDACTED]



**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

Tá ár Ráiteas Príobháideachta le fáil ar [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

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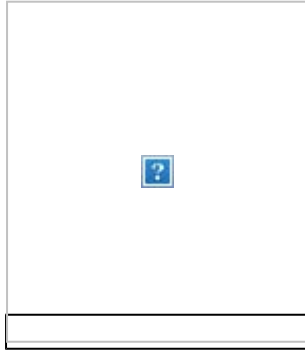
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Buvinda House,  
Dublin Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

\*\*\*\*\*

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Tá ár Ráiteas Príobháideachta le fáil ar [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

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██████████  
████████████████████  
  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy ██████,

I refer to your email of 12<sup>th</sup> May to Minister Brendan ██████ regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch

████████████████████  
**Chief Executive**

From: [Kilnageer Railsafety](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
Date: Wednesday 20 May 2020 22:14:34

---

Apologies all, link to video omitted from previous email.  
<https://www.facebook.com/radiomidwest/videos/2930800016957020/>

On Wed, May 20, 2020 at 10:07 PM Kilnageer Railsafety  
<[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt reply to our recent email raising concerns regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo. We acknowledge that Irish Rail have this week made operational an advancing train warning light system, however as a community we feel that this solution does not address our primary concerns. As you pointed out in your own email this system still places the responsibility for the safe operation of manual gates on the road user and this is in no way an acceptable solution for many of the citizens who live in this road.

There are in excess of 40 houses on this road; there are schools at either end of this road in Breaffy and Belcarra villages; many of the residents on this road are pensioners who following the closure of Belcarra Post Office have to travel down this road to Breaffy Post Office to collect their pensions; and one of our residents is a wheelchair user who is also a road user. These combined factors demonstrate that this is a busy road with many users having personal issues that make the operation of manual gates a process that poses personal risk of an adverse incident or injury, i.e. parents travelling alone with young children on the school run, older people who have reduced mobility and sensory impairment, and a person with a disability. Had Irish Rail carried out any Christmas consultation process with us as a community prior to the installation of the advancing train warning lights we could have explained our concerns to you.

We are asking now as a matter of urgency that Irish Rail engage with us as a community to find a way forward that meets the needs of all involved. We have made representation to Minister [REDACTED] regarding this matter and so we are cc'ing him in this reply so that he is fully abreast of the situation. Local media have also been very supportive of us in this matter and I am including a link to a video recorded by a reporter from Midwest radio where the issues we have with the current solution are demonstrated.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kilnageer Railsafety](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 22:07:41

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt reply to our recent email raising concerns regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo. We acknowledge that Irish Rail have this week made operational an advancing train warning light system, however as a community we feel that this solution does not address our primary concerns. As you pointed out in your own email this system still places the responsibility for the safe operation of manual gates on the road user and this is in no way an acceptable solution for many of the citizens who live in this road.

There are in excess of 40 houses on this road; there are schools at either end of this road in Breaffy and Belcarra villages; many of the residents on this road are pensioners who following the closure of Belcarra Post Office have to travel down this road to Breaffy Post Office to collect their pensions; and one of our residents is a wheelchair user who is also a road user. These combined factors demonstrate that this is a busy road with many users having personal issues that make the operation of manual gates a process that poses personal risk of an adverse incident or injury, i.e. parents travelling alone with young children on the school run, older people who have reduced mobility and sensory impairment, and a person with a disability. Had Irish Rail carried out any Christmas consultation process with us as a community prior to the installation of the advancing train warning lights we could have explained our concerns to you.

We are asking now as a matter of urgency that Irish Rail engage with us as a community to find a way forward that meets the needs of all involved. We have made representation to Minister [REDACTED] regarding this matter and so we are cc'ing him in this reply so that he is fully abreast of the situation. Local media have also been very supportive of us in this matter and I am including a link to a video recorded by a reporter from Midwest radio where the issues we have with the current solution are demonstrated.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: [REDACTED] Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday 28 May 2020 16:03:21  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)

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All

Any thoughts on a further response?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For [REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[REDACTED] W: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:52 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

I am disappointed to read Chief Executive [REDACTED] response which fails to address my concerns and that of communities living on the busy LS760 roadway between the villages of Breaffy and Belcarra at Killnageer.

In my previous email I requested that Irish Rail would meet with representatives and conduct a review of the notorious Kilnageer unmanned railway level crossing.

I am still awaiting a formal response from Irish Rail on this request and asking [REDACTED] to support my request for Irish Rail to participate in this meeting.

A motion was raised yesterday at the Castlebar local municipal meeting where delegates from the Killnageer community presented on this serious matter.

The Local Councillors present are also writing to Irish Rail requesting their engagement at a meeting to recognise the case being made by the community and understand the challenges Kilnageer railway crossing presents to the community and devise a roadmap on how both stakeholders can work on an acceptable solution to remove health and safety concerns

Finally I want to invite [REDACTED] to visit Kilnageer, to meet and listen to representatives of the community who are united in their view to do whatever it takes for Irish Rail to understand the scale of the health and safety risk at the crossing.

I would be very grateful Minister if you could please take up my offer.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** IE Oireachtas Liaison <oireachtasliaison@irishrail.ie>

**Sent:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 16:06

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED] IE

Oireachtas Liaison <oireachtasliaison@irishrail.ie>

**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:57

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has received representation from [REDACTED] (below). The Department of Transport has recently raised a query with the Commission for Railway Regulation, which is the National Safety Authority for the rail sector, regarding this crossing and are awaiting the CRR's response.

[REDACTED] would like Iarnród Éireann to arrange meeting with [REDACTED] in regards to Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
*Minister of State Office*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

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[REDACTED] [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 17:45

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 15:09

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

Dear Minister,



I ask for your guidance and support to facilitate a meeting with Senior members of Irish Rail to conduct a detailed review of the notorious Kilnageer unmanned railway level crossing with members from Mayo Local Authority and the Community at their earliest opportunity.

From listening to the community concerns this is an on-going problem for generations and Irish Rail is failing to recognise the case being made by the community. It is crucial to understand the challenges Kilnageer railway crossing presents to the community and devise a roadmap on how both stakeholders can work on an acceptable solution to remove health and safety concerns

Kilnageer is located on the busy LS760 roadway between the villages of Breaffy and Belcarra. This road has become considerably busier in recent times due to the post office in Belcarra closing and people having to travel the short distance to Breaffy for postal services.

The point was firmly made that me at this local TD at a recent meeting that Irish Rail's insistence that every motorist crossing the line should open and close the two gates every time only served to increase the potential for a fatality.

The community understand the laws governing unmanned level crossings but asking people in this present climate to complete such a task on such a busy roadway increases the likelihood of more serious accidents occurring.


The extent of the health and safety threat at Kilnageer is very serious and the commissioning of new warning lights and signs which have been left lying idle at the location for over six months is not the permanent solution many locals in the areas will not accept.

It is at the request of the community to engage with Irish rail and my responsibility to facilitate this process.

The community were united in their view to do whatever it takes for Irish Rail to understand the scale of the health and safety risk at the crossing.

Please feel free to call me at any stage for further details, it's my intention to have this meeting with Irish Rail as soon as possible without delay.

Kind Regards,

A screenshot of a cell phone  Description automatically generated



Iarnrod Éireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, cláraithe in Éirinn ag Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Úr. 119571 Úr. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
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<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasríomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [JE Freedom of Information](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOI  
**Date:** Wednesday 3 June 2020 22:42:05  
**Attachments:** [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)  
[freedom\\_of\\_information\\_form\\_v1\\_1015.pdf](#)

---

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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To whom it may concern,

Please find attached a Freedom of Information request for your action.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 10:37 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOI  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Friday 5 June 2020 16:06:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200605\\_Jim Meade Iarnród Éireann re Kilnageer railway crossing.pdf](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200519\\_Letter re rail safety at Kilnageer Rail Crossing.pdf](#)

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Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached correspondence from [REDACTED], Interim CEO Road Safety Authority for your attention.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Executive Officer | Secretariat**

Road Safety Authority, Moy Valley Business Park,  
Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 V6E4.  
Tel. (096) 25010, locall 1890 40 60 40  
[www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

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[Road Safety Authority](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety Issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line and non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Their latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

While we realise that the Road Safety Authority has no direct input into this matter, it would nevertheless be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view to assisting us in our objective in preventing loss of life. In this regard, we give permission for this correspondence to be forwarded to whomever you may deem appropriate.

I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us, [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,  
[REDACTED]

19/5

[REDACTED]

For direct reply.  
Acknowledge their concerns  
Advise we will write to Irish  
Rail & advise them of Kilnageer  
Residents concerns  
Thanks [REDACTED]



# Working To Save Lives

05 June 2020

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you as CEO of Irish Rail to highlight an issue raised by concerned residents in relation to the railway crossing at Kilnageer, on the main line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo.

I attach the correspondence received by the Road Safety Authority in relation to this matter. You will note that the residents are very concerned in relation to the road safety risks associated with the layout of the current crossing and the warning system to advise motorists that a train is coming.

The community have advised us that there have been several incidents over many years and that is a concern from a road safety perspective.

As safety issues such as this are not within Road Safety Authority's remit, I would appreciate if you could review the location and provide a direct reply to the correspondents. I would welcome your intervention and assistance in resolving this particular issue for the long-term benefit of the local community as well as ensuring the safety of all road users of this particular crossing.

I thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Road Safety Authority

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
**Date:** Tuesday 9 June 2020 15:27:50  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image006.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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[REDACTED]  
This interaction should be handled by corporate communications.

I was in Connolly this morning talking to [REDACTED] on this very issue and am aware that a number of communications have been had between various interested parties relating to Kilnageer and the CEO's office .

[REDACTED] can you advise how best to handle this request?

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 June 2020 15:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

[REDACTED]  
Please see below from Mayo Co Co. They have asked if a representative of Iarnród Éireann is available to attend Castlebar Municiple District meeting on 24th June.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 12:13 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

[REDACTED]  
Thanks for your reply. At the recent Castlebar Municiple District meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the members received a deputation representing local residents at Kilnageer, Breaffy regarding [REDACTED] Notice of Motion. [REDACTED], local resident, addressed the meeting and requested the members support in asking Iarnród Éireann to install an automatic level crossing at Kilnageer. He told the meeting that the new lighting system recently installed is not safe and causes more confusion for road users.

All the members supported the residents and stated that the response received by Iarnród Éireann to [REDACTED] motion, which was circulated with the agenda, was not adequate. It was resolved at the meeting that a representative from Iarnród Éireann be requested to attend a meeting of Castlebar Municipal District to address the concerns expressed by the members and

local residents regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Breaffy.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020, can you advise if a representative of Iarnród Éireann is available to attend this meeting to address the concerns of the members. Can you please let me know by next Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June if someone will be attending. Many thanks.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Iarla



**Ceann Cheantar Bardasach Chaisleán an Bharraigh**  
Head of Castlebar Municipal District

**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council**

Aras An Chontae | Caisleán an Bharraigh | Contae Mhaigh Eo | F23 WF90  
[www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) | [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 10:41

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, which we received on 7<sup>th</sup> May last.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to mitigate risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus remains unchanged.

To assist in this next week, a new train detection system will go live at Kilnageer. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

[REDACTED]

: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 11:24

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

Dear [REDACTED],

We have received a notice of motion from Cllr [REDACTED] for the May Castlebar Municipal District meeting taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A notice of motion is the methodology for elected members to have items included for discussion on the meeting agenda. Can you arrange for a response from Iarnród Éireann to this notice of motion by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 please. The notice of motion is as follows;

*"That Mayo Co Council call on Iarnród Éireann to erect automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy for the safety of all concerned but most of all the general public who cross the lines by all modes of transport including cyclists and pedestrians"*

Thank you for your assistance with this matter, if you require any further details please contact me.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Iarla

LOGO



**Ceann Cheantar Bardasach Chaisleán an Bharraigh**  
Head of Castlebar Municipal District

**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council**

Aras An Chontae | Caisleán an Bharraigh | Contae Mhaigh Eo | F23 WF90  
[www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) | [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie)

Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, clraithe in Eirinn ag Staisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Úr. 119571 Úr. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O



To: [REDACTED]



**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear Deputy [REDACTED],

Please find attached letter on behalf of the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 May 2020 15:57

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [REDACTED] Kilnageer Railway Crossing - Meeting

Dear Heidi,

Minister [REDACTED] has received representation from [REDACTED] (below). The Department of Transport has recently raised a query with the Commission for Railway Regulation, which is the National Safety Authority for the rail sector, regarding this crossing and are awaiting the CRR's response.

Minister [REDACTED] would like Iarnród Éireann to arrange meeting with Deputy [REDACTED] in regards to Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
*Minister of State Office*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

[REDACTED] [www.dttas.gov.ie](http://www.dttas.gov.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 May 2020 17:45

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 15:09

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Irish Rail, Kilnageer Railway Crossing - [REDACTED]

Dear Minister,

I ask for your guidance and support to facilitate a meeting with Senior members of Irish Rail to conduct a detailed review of the notorious Kilnageer unmanned railway level crossing with members from Mayo Local Authority and the Community at their earliest opportunity.

From listening to the community concerns this is an on-going problem for generations and Irish Rail is failing to recognise the case being made by the community. It is crucial to understand the challenges Kilnageer railway crossing presents to the community and devise a roadmap on how both stakeholders can work on an acceptable solution to remove health and safety concerns.

Kilnageer is located on the busy LS760 roadway between the villages of Breaffy and Belcarra. This road has become considerably busier in recent times due to the post office in Belcarra closing and people having to travel the short distance to Breaffy for postal services.

The point was firmly made that me at this local TD at a recent meeting that Irish Rail's insistence that every motorist crossing the line should open and close the two gates every time only served to increase the potential for a fatality.

The community understand the laws governing unmanned level crossings but asking people in this present climate to complete such a task on such a busy roadway increases the likelihood of more serious accidents occurring.

The extent of the health and safety threat at Kilnageer is very serious and the commissioning of new warning lights and signs which have been left lying idle at the location for over six months is not the permanent solution many locals in the areas will not accept.

It is at the request of the community to engage with Irish rail and my responsibility to facilitate this process.

The community were united in their view to do whatever it takes for Irish Rail to understand the scale of the health and safety risk at the crossing.

Please feel free to call me at any stage for further details, it's my intention to have this meeting with Irish Rail as soon as possible without delay.

Kind Regards,

A screenshot of a cell phone  Description automatically generated



Iarnrod Éireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, claithe in Éirinn ag Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Úr. 119571 Úr. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
Iarnrod Éireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

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Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

23rd June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28<sup>th</sup> May to [REDACTED] with a copy to me regarding Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

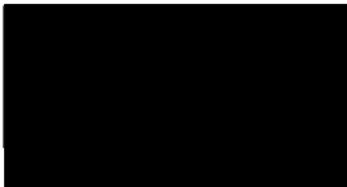
Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [IE Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [IE Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 13:16:46  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf

---

Dear Minister [REDACTED],  
Please find attached letter on behalf of [REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Exec [REDACTED] nolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 May 2020 11:10  
**To:** IE Oireachtas Liaison <[oireachtasliaison@irishrail.ie](mailto:oireachtasliaison@irishrail.ie)>  
**Subject:** Crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],  
I have been contacted by residents of Kilnageer/Belcarra in relation to the unmanned railway crossing on the L5760 road in County Mayo.  
The residents acknowledge that Irish Rail have an advance train warning light system operational at the location but they feel this is not sufficient. The onus is still being placed on the local residents for the safe operation of manual gates on the road.  
Residents are seeking engagement with Irish Rail so that a safer solution can be reached with regard to this crossing.  
I would appreciate your response to their concerns. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your assistance.  
With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Minister for Rural and Community Development**  
**Constituency Office:** 098-27012

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Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.  
<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

Minister [REDACTED],  
Minister of State for Tourism and Sport,  
[REDACTED]

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Minister [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 29<sup>th</sup> May on behalf of the residents of Kilnageer/Balcarra regarding the Railway crossing at Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

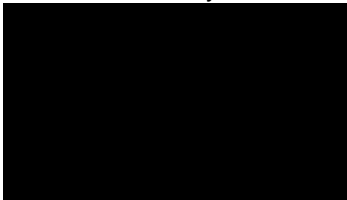
It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** "Kilnageer Railsafety"; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 13:19:06  
**Attachments:** [Railsafety Kilnageer Group - Railway Crossing Kilnageer - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached further letter on behalf of [REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Donnelly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [mailto:[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** 20 May 2020 22:14

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

Apologies all, link to video omitted from previous email.

<https://www.facebook.com/radiomidwest/videos/2930800016957020/>

On Wed, May 20, 2020 at 10:07 PM Kilnageer Railsafety

<[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your prompt reply to our recent email raising concerns regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo. We acknowledge that Irish Rail have this week made operational an advancing train warning light system, however as a community we feel that this solution does not address our primary concerns. As you pointed out in your own email this system still places the responsibility for the safe operation of manual gates on the road user and this is in no way an acceptable solution for many of the citizens who live in this road.

There are in excess of 40 houses on this road; there are schools at either end of this road. In Breaffy and Belcarra villages; many of the residents on this road are pensioners who following the closure of Belcarra Post Office have to travel down this road to Breaffy Post Office to collect their pensions; and one of our residents is a wheelchair user who is also a road user. These combined factors demonstrate that this is a busy road with many users having personal issues that make the operation of manual gates a process that poses personal risk of an adverse incident or injury, i.e. parents travelling alone with young children on the school run, older people who have reduced mobility and sensory impairment, and a person with a disability. Had Irish Rail carried out any Christmas consultation process with us as a community prior to the installation of the advancing train warning lights we could have explained our concerns to you.

We are asking now as a matter of urgency that Irish Rail engage with us as a community to find a way forward that meets the needs of all involved. We have made representation to Minister [REDACTED] regarding this matter and so we are cc'ing him in this reply so that he is fully abreast of the situation. Local media have also been very supportive of us in this matter and I am including a link to a video recorded by a reporter from Midwest radio where the issues we have with the current solution are demonstrated. We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]





[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear ,

Thank you for your further email of 20<sup>th</sup> May regarding Kilnageer Level Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.


Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

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Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Meade Jim](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 13:19:07  
**Attachments:** [Railsafety Kilnageer Group - Railway Crossing Kilnageer - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],  
Please find attached further letter on behalf of [REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED] Exec [REDACTED] Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [mailto:[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** 20 May 2020 22:14

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

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Regards,

[REDACTED]



[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear ,

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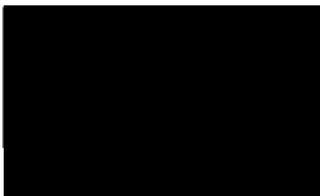
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Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** "secretariat@rsa" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 15:22:31  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200605 \[REDACTED\] Iarnród Éireann re Kilnageer railway crossing.pdf](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200519 Letter re rail safety at Kilnageer Rail Crossing.pdf](#)  
[\[REDACTED\] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached correspondence on behalf of Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,



Exec

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** secretariat [mailto:secretariat@rsa.ie]

**Sent:** 05 June 2020 16:06

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached correspondence from [REDACTED], Interim CEO Road Safety Authority for your attention.

Kind regards



**Executive Officer | Secretariat**

Road Safety Authority, Moy Valley Business Park,  
Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 V6E4.

[REDACTED], local 1890 40 60 40

[www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

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[Road Safety Authority](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety Issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line and non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Their latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

While we realise that the Road Safety Authority has no direct input into this matter, it would nevertheless be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view to assisting us in our objective in preventing loss of life. In this regard, we give permission for this correspondence to be forwarded to whomever you may deem appropriate.

I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us, [railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

19/5

[REDACTED]

for draft reply.  
Acknowledge their concerns  
Advise we will write to Irish  
Rail & advise them of Kilnageer  
Residents concerns

Thanks

[REDACTED]





# Working To Save Lives

05 June 2020

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you as CEO of Irish Rail to highlight an issue raised by concerned residents in relation to the railway crossing at Kilnageer, on the main line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo.

I attach the correspondence received by the Road Safety Authority in relation to this matter. You will note that the residents are very concerned in relation to the road safety risks associated with the layout of the current crossing and the warning system to advise motorists that a train is coming.

The community have advised us that there have been several incidents over many years and that is a concern from a road safety perspective.

As safety issues such as this are not within Road Safety Authority's remit, I would appreciate if you could review the location and provide a direct reply to the correspondents. I would welcome your intervention and assistance in resolving this particular issue for the long-term benefit of the local community as well as ensuring the safety of all road users of this particular crossing.

I thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interim CEO, Road Safety Authority



Mr [REDACTED]  
Interim CEO Road Safety Authority  
Moy Valley Business Park  
Primrose Hill  
Dublin Road  
Ballina  
Co. Mayo

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> June on behalf of the residents in relation to Kilnageer Level Crossing. I have been in direct contact with the residents also.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

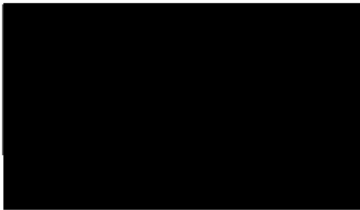
Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

I am sure you would join me in urging that all users observe both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation, which mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other road users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the strongest level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

We have worked with the Road Safety Authority on level crossing safety awareness in the past, and would welcome the opportunity to do so again, for the safety of road and rail users alike.



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 15:23:33  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200605 \[REDACTED\] Iarnród Éireann re Kilnageer railway crossing.pdf](#)  
[HRA\\_SEC\\_20200519 Letter re rail safety at Kilnageer Rail Crossing.pdf](#)  
[\[REDACTED\] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

---

FYI

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2020 15:23  
**To:** 'secretariat@rsa.ie' <secretariat@rsa.ie>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached correspondence on behalf of [REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Exec [REDACTED] Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** secretariat [mailto:secretariat@rsa.ie]  
**Sent:** 05 June 2020 16:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer Railway Crossing

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

---

Dear [REDACTED]  
Please find attached correspondence from [REDACTED], Interim CEO Road Safety Authority for your attention.  
Kind regards  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
**Executive Officer | Secretariat**

Road Safety Authority, Moy Valley Business Park,  
Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 V6E4.  
Tel. [REDACTED], local 1890 40 60 40  
[www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

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system(s).



[Road Safety Authority](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We write to you to highlight a serious Road Safety Issue at Kilnageer Rail Crossing which is situated along the main rail line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo. The crossing is located on road number L5760 and is signed as XM240.

The junction is governed by a stop sign and line and non-automatic gates. It has been the scene of several accidents and numerous near misses between road traffic and trains over the years. It is acknowledged by Irish Rail as being the site of 25% of their recorded near misses nationally.

There are a number of factors which make this crossing exceptionally hazardous, however it is the layout of the crossing that is most concerning. It has been established that a road user will only have a window of 11 seconds from when the train becomes visible until it arrives at the actual crossing. This may very well be a contributing factor to the high volume of near misses recorded at the location.

We as a Community have over the years constantly brought these matters to the attention of Irish Rail whom to date, have failed to engage in any meaningful way in an effort to alleviate our concerns. A recent accident involving Irish Rail and a motorist has once again highlighted the issue locally. The Community's objective is to simply make the crossing as safe as possible for all users. Their latest proposal is to install flashing amber lights to warn motorists at the junction. Once again, this in our view does not address the crux of the problem which is the actual layout of the junction. We believe that automatic gates are the only and obvious solution to this problem. The major concern within our Community at this time is that there will be a needless loss of life at this junction before the appropriate steps are taken by Irish Rail.

While we realise that the Road Safety Authority has no direct input into this matter, it would nevertheless be appreciated if you could examine the current situation and perhaps visit the location with a view to assisting us in our objective in preventing loss of life. In this regard, we give permission for this correspondence to be forwarded to whomever you may deem appropriate.

I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and if you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to make contact with us, [railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

19/5

[REDACTED]  
for direct reply.  
Acknowledge their concerns  
Advise we will write to Irish  
Rail & advise them of Kilnageer  
Residents concerns

Thanks [REDACTED]



# Working To Save Lives

05 June 2020

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you as CEO of Irish Rail to highlight an issue raised by concerned residents in relation to the railway crossing at Kilnageer, on the main line between Castlebar and Manulla Junction, Co. Mayo.

I attach the correspondence received by the Road Safety Authority in relation to this matter. You will note that the residents are very concerned in relation to the road safety risks associated with the layout of the current crossing and the warning system to advise motorists that a train is coming.

The community have advised us that there have been several incidents over many years and that is a concern from a road safety perspective.

As safety issues such as this are not within Road Safety Authority's remit, I would appreciate if you could review the location and provide a direct reply to the correspondents. I would welcome your intervention and assistance in resolving this particular issue for the long-term benefit of the local community as well as ensuring the safety of all road users of this particular crossing.

I thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Interim CEO, Road Safety Authority

Mr John Caulfield

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> June on behalf of the residents in relation to Kilnageer Level Crossing. I have been in direct contact with the residents also.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

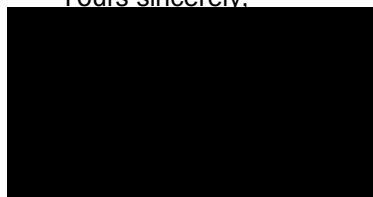
I am sure you would join me in urging that all users observe both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation, which mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other road users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the strongest level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

We have worked with the Road Safety Authority on level crossing safety awareness in the past, and would welcome the opportunity to do so again, for the safety of road and rail users alike.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 16:14:18  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240.pdf](#)  
[REDACTED] - IWA - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf

---

Dear [REDACTED],  
Please find attached letter on behalf of Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Exec [REDACTED] Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2020 17:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240  
Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

---

Dear [REDACTED]  
Please see attached letter of support for Automation of Railway Crossing XM240.  
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
National Director of Services | Volunteering | Holidays | Housing | Property  
[Irish Wheelchair Association](#) | [Newport Road](#) | [Castlebar](#) | [Co. Mayo](#) | [Eircode: F23 K683](#)  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie)



28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

██████████  
**Chief Executive**  
**Iarnród Éireann**  
**Connolly Station**  
**Dublin 1**

**RE: Railway Crossing Number XM240 - Road Number L5760**

Dear ██████████

I write to express the support of Irish Wheelchair Association to the campaign for the installation of automatic barriers at railway crossing number XM240, road number L5760 near Castlebar in County Mayo.

I am familiar with this road and can confirm that it is a very busy and important route for people of all ages and abilities whether travelling to work, school or social outings.

The reality is that for many years the two agricultural gates at this crossing have remained open 24/7 with drivers being vigilant for oncoming trains, however following a recent collision the gates are now closed 24/7 and require the road vehicle driver to get out of their car (and into their wheelchair, if they use one) twice to open the gates and close them afterwards.

Unfortunately, this situation of two closed agricultural gates at a railway crossing is a major barrier for people with limited mobility and in particular for wheelchair users and the elderly, for the following reasons:

1. The agricultural gates are not designed for ease of opening or closing, particularly if you are a wheelchair user or have poor dexterity
2. The distance between the two gates, due to an adjacent stream, is substantial and a major barrier for people with limited mobility

**PATRON**

Michael D. Higgins. President of Ireland

**DIRECTORS**

Mr Martin Kelly (Chairperson), Ms Eileen O'Mahony (President)  
Ms Breda Dwyer (Vice Chairperson), Mr Donal Sands (Board Secretary), Mr John Olden (Treasurer)  
Mr Declan Hamilton, Ms Michelle Byrne, Mr Tom Doherty, Mr Michael Hickey, Mr Olan McGowan  
Ms Kathleen Brady, Ms Katharine Deas, Mr Padraic Hayes, Ms Laura MacDermott, Ms Linda Ahern

**Chief Executive Officer** Rosemary Keogh. **Company Secretary** Stephen O'Beirne  
**Company Registration No** 352483. **Charity Regulatory Authority CRA** 20007997  
**Registered Charity No** CHY 5393



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Guarantee, operates under  
the registered name of  
Irish Wheelchair Association

3. The location is rural and isolated, increasing the risks to the driver leaving their car, particularly at night and in all likelihood in wet and windy conditions
4. There is also a risk due to the person not crossing the railway lines in their wheelchair in time to avoid an oncoming train or indeed oncoming car at night
5. The wide gap between the actual train rail and the road surface exposes a risk of a wheelchair becoming lodged therein. See attached photographs

Irish Wheelchair Association strongly encourages Iarnród Éireann to take the lead in delivering on an equal society for all by installing automatic barriers at this railway crossing.

In 2020 Irish Wheelchair Association celebrates 60 years of representing people with limited mobility, including people who use wheelchairs, and over this period access has been the biggest barrier people experience in living independently in the community.

Thankfully as a society we have seen great advancements in access over the decades as an awareness of the importance of access for independence increases, design solutions evolve and commitment to equality leads.

As you may be aware, Irish Wheelchair Association works closely with Iarnród Éireann, participating on national advisory committees, and acknowledges the great improvements Iarnród Éireann has achieved in terms of access across its infrastructure. However, as we all know there is always more to do, bit by bit!

The attached photographs give a view of the location, gates and distances involved for users.

In support and anticipation of an accessible solution.

Yours sincerely



National Director of Services | Volunteering | Housing | Property | Access

E: 

**PATRON**

Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

**DIRECTORS**

Mr Martin Kelly (Chairperson), Ms Eileen O'Mahony (President)  
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Irish Wheelchair Association.





**PATRON**

Michael D. Higgins President of Ireland

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**Company Registration No** 352483 **Charity Regulatory Authority** CRA 20007997  
**Registered Charity No** CHY 5393



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Guarantee, operates under  
the registered name of  
Irish Wheelchair Association.

Irish Wheelchair Association

Áras Chúchulainn

Blackheath Drive

Clontarf

Dublin 3

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> May regarding Kilnageer Level Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

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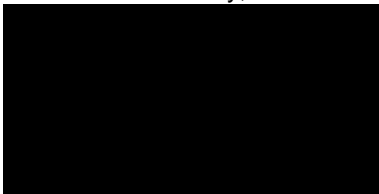
It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

I do recognise the specific challenges this presents to wheelchair users, and as stated we will continue to progress level crossing works in a manner which prioritise the safety of all users.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 16:15:15  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240.pdf](#)  
[\[REDACTED\] - IWA - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

---

FYI

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2020 16:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240  
Dear [REDACTED]  
Please find attached letter on behalf of [REDACTED], Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann.  
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2020 17:28  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Irish Wheelchair Association Letter of Support for Automatic Railway Crossing XM240  
Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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Dear [REDACTED]  
Please see attached letter of support for Automation of Railway Crossing XM240.  
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
National Director of Services | Volunteering | Holidays | Housing | Property  
[Irish Wheelchair Association | Newport Road | Castlebar | Co. Mayo | Eircode: F23 K683](#)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

██████████  
**Chief Executive**  
**Iarnród Éireann**  
**Connolly Station**  
**Dublin 1**

**RE: Railway Crossing Number XM240 - Road Number L5760**

Dear ██████████

I write to express the support of Irish Wheelchair Association to the campaign for the installation of automatic barriers at railway crossing number XM240, road number L5760 near Castlebar in County Mayo.

I am familiar with this road and can confirm that it is a very busy and important route for people of all ages and abilities whether travelling to work, school or social outings.

The reality is that for many years the two agricultural gates at this crossing have remained open 24/7 with drivers being vigilant for oncoming trains, however following a recent collision the gates are now closed 24/7 and require the road vehicle driver to get out of their car (and into their wheelchair, if they use one) twice to open the gates and close them afterwards.

Unfortunately, this situation of two closed agricultural gates at a railway crossing is a major barrier for people with limited mobility and in particular for wheelchair users and the elderly, for the following reasons:

1. The agricultural gates are not designed for ease of opening or closing, particularly if you are a wheelchair user or have poor dexterity
2. The distance between the two gates, due to an adjacent stream, is substantial and a major barrier for people with limited mobility

**PATRON**

Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

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Mr Declan Hamilton, Ms Michelle Byrne, Mr Tom Doherty, Mr Michael Hickey, Mr Olan McGowan  
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**Chief Executive Officer** Rosemary Keogh. **Company Secretary** Stephen O'Beirne  
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Irish Wheelchair Association



3. The location is rural and isolated, increasing the risks to the driver leaving their car, particularly at night and in all likelihood in wet and windy conditions
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Irish Wheelchair Association strongly encourages Iarnród Éireann to take the lead in delivering on an equal society for all by installing automatic barriers at this railway crossing.

In 2020 Irish Wheelchair Association celebrates 60 years of representing people with limited mobility, including people who use wheelchairs, and over this period access has been the biggest barrier people experience in living independently in the community.

Thankfully as a society we have seen great advancements in access over the decades as an awareness of the importance of access for independence increases, design solutions evolve and commitment to equality leads.

As you may be aware, Irish Wheelchair Association works closely with Iarnród Éireann, participating on national advisory committees, and acknowledges the great improvements Iarnród Éireann has achieved in terms of access across its infrastructure. However, as we all know there is always more to do, bit by bit!

The attached photographs give a view of the location, gates and distances involved for users.

In support and anticipation of an accessible solution.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]  
National Director of Services | Volunteering | Housing | Property | Access  
[Redacted Name]

**PATRON**

Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

**DIRECTORS**

Mr Martin Kelly (Chairperson), Ms Eileen O'Mahony (President)  
Ms Breda Dwyer (Vice Chairperson), Mr Donal Sands (Board Secretary), Mr John Olden (Treasurer)  
Mr Declan Hamilton, Ms Michelle Byrne, Mr Tom Doherty, Mr Michael Hickey, Mr Olan McGowan  
Ms Kathleen Brady, Ms Katharine Deas, Mr Padraic Hayes, Ms Laura MacDermott, Ms Linda Ahern

**Chief Executive Officer** Rosemary Keogh. **Company Secretary** Stephen O'Beirne  
**Company Registration No** 352483 **Charity Regulatory Authority** CRA 20007997  
**Registered Charity No** CHY 5393



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Guarantee, operates under  
the registered name of  
Irish Wheelchair Association.



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Irish Wheelchair Association.

Irish Wheelchair Association

Áras Chúchulainn

Blackheath Drive

Clontarf

Dublin 3

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> May regarding Kilnageer Level Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

I do recognise the specific challenges this presents to wheelchair users, and as stated we will continue to progress level crossing works in a manner which prioritise the safety of all users.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Thursday 25 June 2020 11:26:53  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)  
[REDACTED] - [Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf](#)

---

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

---

[REDACTED]  
We received a PQ from the Sinn Féin TD in Mayo re this level crossing and we have sent it to CRR for answer. CRR is likely to contact yourselves re this and it might be quicker and simpler for everybody concerned if I just forwarded the attached letter to CRR.

Obviously I would not do this without asking for Irish Rail's agreement. Are you happy for this letter to be forwarded to CRR?

Regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2020 16:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED]

As promised, please find attached copy of letter sent just now to Deputy [REDACTED] regarding Kilnageer.

Regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.

Regards,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know [REDACTED]

had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call Brendan if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

Email [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Website: [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)

Twitter: @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 May 2020 15:44

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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**Meath County Council's new corporate headquarters are:  
Buvinda House,  
Dublin Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

\*\*\*\*\*

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Iarnrod Éireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*



[REDACTED]

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12<sup>th</sup> May to Minister [REDACTED] regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kilnageer meeting  
**Date:** Thursday 25 June 2020 11:57:54

---

Iarnród Éireann representatives attended a Castlebar district meeting of Mayo County Council on 24th June, relating to Kilnageer crossing.

The representatives stressed that it was crucial that the user operated crossing be used correctly, as stipulated in road safety and rail safety legislation, and demonstrated how the new Decision Support System enhances safety at the crossing.

Iarnród Éireann committed to councillors to:

- Apply for planning permission for a bridge to replace the crossing by Q1 2021 at the latest
- Engage with Mayo County Council Engineer to accelerate this process if possible
- Meet with residents and councillor representatives on site before the end of July, to address any short term measures which could assist, including signage positioning, and view improvements

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Thursday 25 June 2020 12:01:26  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Hi [REDACTED]  
Few changes since this correspondence if you want to give me a quick call I will explain,  
Thanks  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2020 11:26  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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[REDACTED]  
We received a PQ from the Sinn Féin TD in Mayo re this level crossing and we have sent it to CRR for answer. CRR is likely to contact yourselves re this and it might be quicker and simpler for everybody concerned if I just forwarded the attached letter to CRR.  
Obviously I would not do this without asking for Irish Rail's agreement. Are you happy for this letter to be forwarded to CRR?  
Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2020 16:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED]  
As promised, please find attached copy of letter sent just now to Deputy [REDACTED] regarding Kilnageer.  
Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED] a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.  
Regards,  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know [REDACTED] had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call Brendan if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Mobile:** [REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)

**Twitter:** @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

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[#MakeItMeath](https://twitter.com/MakeItMeath)



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Dublin Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

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Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Thursday 25 June 2020 12:48:09  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[REDACTED] - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf  
[REDACTED] - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf

---

Hi [REDACTED],

We have had a number of representations on this issue. There has been further correspondence on the matter since the May correspondence issued to Deputy Alan Dillon on 23<sup>rd</sup> June - copy attached.

For your information, Iarnród Éireann representatives attended a Castlebar district meeting of Mayo County Council yesterday, 24th June, relating to Kilnageer crossing.

The representatives stressed that it was crucial that the user operated crossing be used correctly, as stipulated in road safety and rail safety legislation, and demonstrated how the new Decision Support System enhances safety at the crossing.

Iarnród Éireann committed to Councillors to:

- Apply for planning permission for a bridge to replace the crossing by Q1 2021 at the latest
- Engage with Mayo County Council Engineer to accelerate this process if possible
- Meet with residents and councillor representatives on site before the end of July, to address any short term measures which could assist, including signage positioning, and view improvements

Thanks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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**Sent:** 25 June 2020 11:26

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

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[REDACTED]  
We received a PQ from the Sinn Féin TD in Mayo re this level crossing and we have sent it to CRR for answer. CRR is likely to contact yourselves re this and it might be quicker and simpler for everybody concerned if I just forwarded the attached letter to CRR.

Obviously I would not do this without asking for Irish Rail's agreement. Are you happy for this letter to be forwarded to CRR?

Regards,

Brendan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2020 16:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED]

As promised, please find attached copy of letter sent just now to Deputy [REDACTED] regarding Kilnageer.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]



**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:29

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a Mayo TD, also contacted the Minister of State's office re this. I sent my reply to [REDACTED] (below) to the Minister of State's office on Friday, with a suggestion that the wording could be amended to be used in a reply to [REDACTED]. I am waiting to find out if their reply to the TD has gone out yet.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 15:17

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 May 2020 14:17

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very kindly for coming back to me and for giving me the update in relation to the DSS and the audible warning system and I am very happy to refer back to group that raised this on behalf of the older residents in the area that live on the road. I think in relation to the long term solution they are wondering when an automatic barrier system will be put in place. I know [REDACTED] had updated at our of National Advisory Group meetings that there was a capital programme of works scheduled for 2020 so I wanted to check if it was included? Would be very happy to take a call [REDACTED] if you have a chance to talk through?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Officer

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Mobile:** [REDACTED]

**Website:** [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie)

**Twitter:** @AgeFriendlyIrl

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:44

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of May 7 to my colleague, [REDACTED], regarding the crossing at Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,



*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

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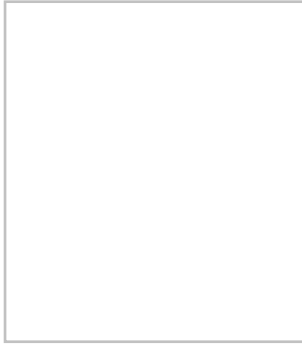
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Dublin Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

\*\*\*\*\*

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Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, claraithe in Eirinn ag Staisiun Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Ur. 119571 Ur. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh

a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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██████████  
████████████████████  
  
23rd June 2020

Dear Deputy ██████████

Thank you for your email of 28<sup>th</sup> May to Minister ██████████ with a copy to me regarding Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

Iarnród Éireann has improved signage, and maintains views and crossing surfaces to ensure the safest possible environment. In recent months, we have begun to introduce the new colour light Decision Support System, which strengthens further the safety of crossings including Kilnageer, one of the first locations to receive this system. It gives a clear visual red and audible signal when a train is approaching. At other times, it displays amber to ensure that at all times, users understand a crossing must be used with caution.

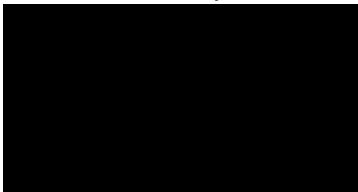
It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

The installation of the Decision Support System does not remove the legal obligation on users to operate the gates and use the crossing safely, and I am sure you support that users would obey both road safety and rail safety legislation.

Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**

[REDACTED]

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12<sup>th</sup> May to Minister [REDACTED] regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

A new train detection system has gone live at Kilnageer this week. The level crossing gates will remain in place and must continue to be operated safely. The new detection system includes an always on traffic light system, which features a red light if it is not safe cross and an orange light if it is permitted to cross with caution.

This type of system is becoming more common and is now in operation across a range of countries and has seen a reduction in near misses and collisions. We believe that this system will make Kilnageer level crossing safer, but we appeal to all users to ensure that they operate the level crossing safely, by ensuring the gates are closed by the user after use. It is for everyone's safety.

Across the Iarnród Éireann network we have 728 user operated level crossings, a reduction in excess of 2,000 since our level crossing elimination programme began in 2000. Of this 728, 41 are public road crossings, including Kilnageer.

As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Chief Executive**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Thursday 25 June 2020 12:48:58  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[Alan Dillon TD - Railway Crossing Kilnageer Mayo - 20.05.20.pdf](#)  
[Alan Dillon TD - Kilnageer Railway Crossing - 23.06.20.pdf](#)

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FYI

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2020 12:48  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED],

We have had a number of representations on this issue. There has been further correspondence on the matter since the May correspondence issued to Deputy [REDACTED] on 23<sup>rd</sup> June - copy attached.

For your information, Iarnród Éireann representatives attended a Castlebar district meeting of Mayo County Council yesterday, 24th June, relating to Kilnageer crossing.

The representatives stressed that it was crucial that the user operated crossing be used correctly, as stipulated in road safety and rail safety legislation, and demonstrated how the new Decision Support System enhances safety at the crossing.

Iarnród Éireann committed to Councillors to:

- Apply for planning permission for a bridge to replace the crossing by Q1 2021 at the latest
- Engage with Mayo County Council Engineer to accelerate this process if possible
- Meet with residents and councillor representatives on site before the end of July, to address any short term measures which could assist, including signage positioning, and view improvements

Thanks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec [REDACTED] nnolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.  
[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 June 2020 11:26  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

[REDACTED]  
We received a PQ from the Sinn Féin TD in Mayo re this level crossing and we have sent it to CRR for answer. CRR is likely to contact yourselves re this and it might be quicker and simpler for everybody concerned if I just forwarded the attached letter to CRR.

Obviously I would not do this without asking for Irish Rail's agreement. Are you happy for this letter to be forwarded to CRR?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2020 16:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rail crossing, Belcarra, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED]





Culvert, Kilnageere, Belcarra, Co. Mayo.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been informed by Iarnród Éireann that it expects to bring into operation during the week beginning May 18 a Decision Support System (DSS) at this crossing, consisting of warning lights – amber and red – together with the use of an audible klaxon to warn anybody in the vicinity of the crossing of an approaching train.

Permanent signage has already been installed as part of this system and will be uncovered in the coming week for use when the DSS becomes operational.

Regards,



*Public Transport Corporate and Services Division*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

\*\*\*\*\*

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Dublin Road,  
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Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

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a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

23rd June 2020

Dear Deputy [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28<sup>th</sup> May to Minister [REDACTED] with a copy to me regarding Kilnageer Railway Crossing.

Iarnród Éireann manages safety across our rail infrastructure and services by assessing risk, and directing our available resources to mitigating that risk.

In the case of level crossings, we have reduced the number of crossings on our network from over 2,000 just 20 years ago, to 937 today. Our preference is always to reduce the number of level crossings, but with rights of way, and the number of crossings, options such as bridges or automation are very costly, and are proceeded with on a strictly prioritised basis, and where planning allows.

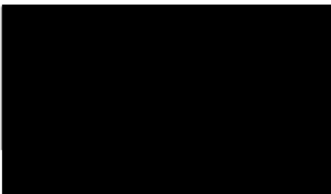
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It is important that all users understand – both Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation mandates that user operated crossing are operated safely. This means operating the gates, and safely closing them after use to protect themselves, other users, and rail users. Crossings of this nature in mainland Europe often do not have protective gates, which is one of the reasons that Ireland has one of the best level crossing safety records.

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Longer term, in the case of Kilnageer, Iarnród Éireann did seek and receive planning permission for a bridge at this location in 2012. However, our infrastructure was significantly underfunded in the intervening years. It is our intention to apply again for planning permission for a bridge in 2021, to ensure that – when our risk prioritisation model and funding allows – we are in a position to move ahead with construction. However, I would stress that there are numerous crossings on our network where our risk model mandates priority ahead of Kilnageer. The Decision Support System significantly improves safety at the location, and we urge the local community to operate the gates safely at all times.

Iarnród Éireann representatives will attend Mayo County Council Caslebar area meeting tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> June to discuss these issues further with local representatives.



**Chief Executive**

[REDACTED]

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Deputy [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12<sup>th</sup> May to Minister [REDACTED] regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo, and I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

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As a company we are always looking at ways to reduce risk at road rail interfaces, such as level crossings. We have looked at a number of schemes to eliminate this level crossing, however, they have been price prohibitive, relative to our available funding. User-worked level crossings are safe when operated safely, and that onus on the user remains unchanged.

Members of my team are onsite at Kilnageer, this week to distribute information on the new warning detection system and if you would like information on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Chief Executive**



**From:** [IF Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [IF Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo  
**Date:** Thursday 9 July 2020 17:18:54  
**Attachments:** [image003.jpg](#)

---

Dear Deputy [REDACTED],

Thank you for your further email.

Iarnród Éireann representatives attended a Castlebar district meeting of Mayo County Council on 24th June relating to Kilnageer crossing.

The representatives stressed that it was crucial that the user operated crossing be used correctly, as stipulated in road safety and rail safety legislation, and demonstrated how the new Decision Support System enhances safety at the crossing.

Iarnród Éireann committed to Councillors to:

- Apply for planning permission for a bridge to replace the crossing by Q1 2021 at the latest
- Engage with Mayo County Council Engineer to accelerate this process if possible
- Meet with residents and councillor representatives on site before the end of July, to address any short term measures which could assist, including signage positioning, and view improvements

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Donnelly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2020 13:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

Hi [REDACTED],

Is it possible to get an updated on the most recent meeting with Mayo County Council and the Kilnageer Community Reps and the actions Iarnród Éireann are pursuing to support the community's safety needs.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]



---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 13:19  
**To:** 'Kilnageer Railsafety' <[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)>; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached further letter on behalf of [REDACTED], Iarnród Éireann.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Exec

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6.

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [<mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** 20 May 2020 22:14

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo

Apologies all, link to video omitted from previous email.

<https://www.facebook.com/radiomidwest/videos/2930800016957020/>

On Wed, May 20, 2020 at 10:07 PM Kilnageer Railsafety

<[railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com](mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt reply to our recent email raising concerns regarding the railway crossing at Kilnageer, Co. Mayo. We acknowledge that Irish Rail have this week made operational an advancing train warning light system, however as a community we feel that this solution does not address our primary concerns. As you pointed out in your own email this system still places the responsibility for the safe operation of manual gates on the road user and this is in no way an acceptable solution for many of the citizens who live in this road.

There are in excess of 40 houses on this road; there are schools at either end of this road in Breaffy and Belcarra villages; many of the residents on this road are pensioners who following the closure of Belcarra Post Office have to travel down this road to Breaffy Post Office to collect their pensions; and one of our residents is a wheelchair user who is also a road user. These combined factors demonstrate that this is a busy road with many users having personal issues that make the operation of manual gates a process that poses personal risk of an adverse incident or injury, i.e. parents travelling alone with young children on the school run, older people who have reduced mobility and sensory impairment, and a person with a disability. Had Irish Rail carried out any Christmas consultation process with us as a community prior to the installation of the advancing train warning lights we could have explained our concerns to you.

We are asking now as a matter of urgency that Irish Rail engage with us as a community to find a way forward that meets the needs of all involved. We have made representation to Minister [REDACTED] regarding this matter and so we are cc'ing him in this reply so that he is fully abreast of the situation. Local media have also been very supportive of us in this matter and I am including a link to a video recorded by a reporter from Midwest radio where the issues we have with the current solution are demonstrated.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghlíomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, clraithe in Éirinn ag Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Úr. 119571 Úr. CBL: IE 4812851 O  
Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

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<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/about/oireachtasemailpolicyanddisclaimer/>

Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

**From:** [Kilnageer Railsafety](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting today at Kilnageer  
**Date:** Tuesday 28 July 2020 22:32:28

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED],

We are writing to you regarding a meeting today at the Kilnageer crossing that was attended by representatives from Irish Rail, Mayo County Council and our local community. Our overall impression of this meeting is that it was very constructive, our concerns were listened to, and a commitment was given to respond to these concerns in a reasonable timeframe. We would like to thank the two representatives from Irish Rail and look forward to future open communication between us and Irish Rail. As stated in previous correspondence our sole aim is to see the implementation of a permanent solution at this crossing that ensures it is made safe for all road users that negates the need to open and close manual gates and this appears to be the aim of Irish Rail also.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On behalf of the residents of Kilnageer and Breaffy Parishes.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting today at Kilnageer  
**Date:** Wednesday 29 July 2020 15:31:04

---

FYI

---

**From:** Kilnageer Railsafety [mailto:railsafetykilnageer@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 28 July 2020 22:32

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Meeting today at Kilnageer

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED],

We are writing to you regarding a meeting today at the Kilnageer crossing that was attended by representatives from Irish Rail, Mayo County Council and our local community. Our overall impression of this meeting is that it was very constructive, our concerns were listened to, and a commitment was given to respond to these concerns in a reasonable timeframe. We would like to thank the two representatives from Irish Rail and look forward to future open communication between us and Irish Rail. As stated in previous correspondence our sole aim is to see the implementation of a permanent solution at this crossing that ensures it is made safe for all road users that negates the need to open and close manual gates and this appears to be the aim of Irish Rail also.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
On behalf of the residents of Kilnageer and Breaffy Parishes.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** XM 240 - Kilnageer  
**Date:** Tuesday 13 October 2020 08:02:37  
**Attachments:** [XM240 Minutes of Meeting 28th July 2020.pdf](#)

---

[REDACTED]

Please see minutes in relation to XM240 which should be sent to Deputy [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
) [REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**Representative Group of Kilnageer and Breaffy Parishes**

**Re: Level Crossing XM 240**

**Date: 30th July 2020**

**Dear Residents,**

Following to our meeting held on the 28th July regarding the Decision Support System that has been recently installed at XM 240 (Kilnageer Level Crossing). Please see attached minutes of our meeting along with an action plan which IÉ will implement subject to your approval.

**Request No.1 – Iarnród Éireann/IÉ are to look into the repositioning of the fence line as resident group advised that it was blocking the view of the Decision Support System**

*IE response: The up side Westport end king post can be moved towards the Westport end. Once moved extra wire will be installed to eliminate the gap between the slapping post and repositioned king post.*

**Request No.2 - The residents wished that the English version of “Danger Live Railway Crossing” Sign (located on the left hand side of the level crossing gate as you approach from the N60 direction) be relocated to the right hand side of the gate.**

*IE response: IÉ will erect an additional English sign on the right hand side of the gate to make the correct crossing procedure more visible to the users.*

**Request No.3 - The white STOP lines at the level crossing to be positioned further back towards the gates.**

*IE Response: The position of the white stop line cannot be moved as it is governed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport - Traffic Signs Manual chapter 7.*

**Request No.4 - The Decision Support System to be moved back and rotated approx. 10 degrees to allow for better view for approaching cars.**

*IE response: IÉ advised that the Decision Support System has to be within 2m of the running line and/or 1m of the level crossing gate. IÉ proposes to rotate the Vamos Light head unit so that it faces more towards the user as they approach on the skewed public road. In addition with the proposed works outlined in request No.1 this should give the user a potential 100m sighting of the amber/red light.*

**Request No.5 - The English Explanation Sign at the level crossing was blocking the view of the pole mounted Stop sign on the up side, Dublin end. Could sign be moved approx. 3 feet to improve viewing distance.**

*IE Response: IÉ agreed to complete this works. The pole on the left hand side will remain and the right hand pole will be moved towards the Dublin end and the signs adjusted. Also the top red & white section of the slapping post should be removed as well.*

**Request No.6 - The residents advised that the width of the crossing gates were 15 feet and could this with be maintained throughout the crossing to prevent passing of two cars directly**



**over the level crossing rails/5ft. In addition could a yellow box be installed over the level crossing between the gates?**

*IÉ Response: IÉ advised that yellow hatch markings do not successfully adhere to the rubber strail crossing surface system.*

*IÉ agreed to trialling the use of plastic bollards as a measure to maintain the 15 feet clear width throughout the crossing and to monitor for vehicle strike/damage. This option would entail the installation of 6 bollards, 3 on each side on the Dublin end only, located between the gates the white STOP lines.*

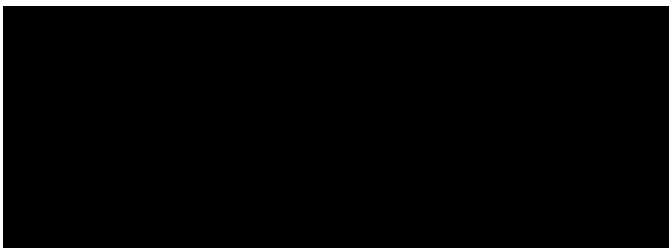
**Request No.7 – With regard to the Decision Support System’s light, rather than having a solid orange warning light, which is understood to be “come to stop” be changed to flashing orange light which is understood to be “caution”**

*IÉ Response: IÉ agreed to review this but would have to be approved by the CRR.*

**Request No.8 – There was a lack of prior consultation by IÉ with the users/general public in the roll out of the Vamos System at XM240. Could leaflet drops be carried out to all houses in area? Could IÉ have a representative on site to explain the system to users of crossing?**

*IÉ Response: IÉ advised that additional leaflet drops will be carried out and additional “show & tell” days will be arranged. It was also discussed that if Mayo coco were in agreement, that the signs on the up side, Westport end could be relocated outside the railway boundary fence and moved towards the Westport end to help further improve the user’s views when looking towards the Westport end. This would also allow us more room to install a new sign if request No.2 is approved.*

**Yours faithfully,**



**Infrastructure Manager Athlone**

**From:** [IE Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [IE Oireachtas Liaison](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Kilnageer Level Crossing - Interim Report  
**Date:** Tuesday 13 October 2020 12:45:30  
**Attachments:** [XM240 Minutes of Meeting 28th July 2020.pdf](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Dear Deputy [REDACTED],

Thank you for your further email regarding Kilnageer level crossing.

Please find attached Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 24 September 2020 08:25

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Kilnageer Level Crossing - Interim Report

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

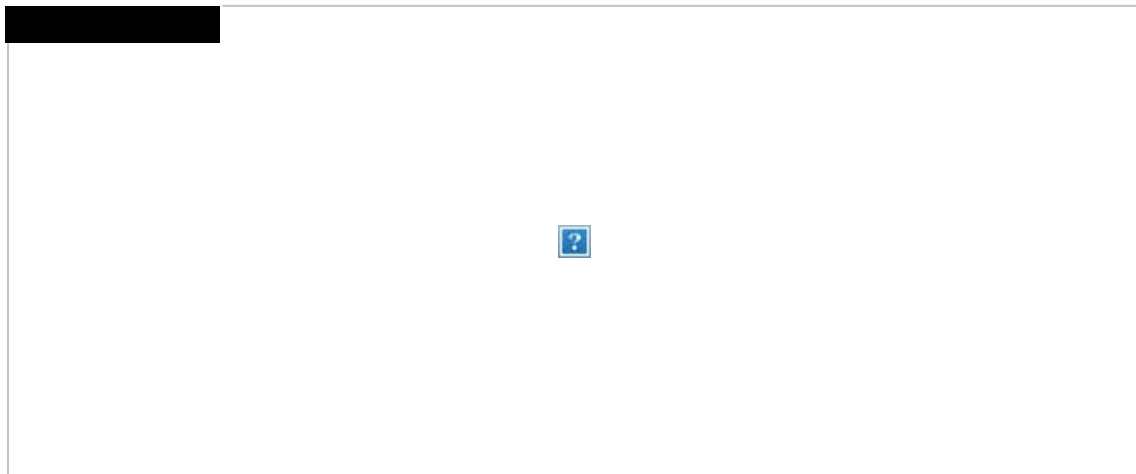
Dear [REDACTED],

I hope this finds you well. Firstly i just want to thank you and acknowledge Irish Rails input into the Kilnageer User Level Crossing safety concerns

Following your discussions with members of the Mayo County Councils and the Kilnageer committee can you please forward me the details and recommendations / actions Irish Rail are working on.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]



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<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/about/oireachtasemailpolicyanddisclaimer/>

Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

**Representative Group of Kilnageer and Breaffy Parishes**

**Re: Level Crossing XM 240**

**Date: 30th July 2020**

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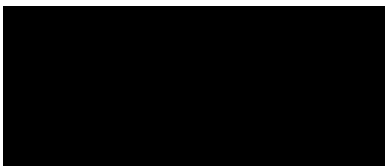
**Request No.7 – With regard to the Decision Support System’s light, rather than having a solid orange warning light, which is understood to be “come to stop” be changed to flashing orange light which is understood to be “caution”**

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**Yours faithfully,**



**Infrastructure Manager Athlone**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [IE Freedom of Information](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: IE\_FOI\_412 - Memo  
**Date:** Thursday 22 October 2020 13:58:53  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[IE\\_FOI\\_412 - Memo.pdf](#)

---

[REDACTED]

See attached FOI regarding Kilnageer LC passed to me.

I will pull together what I have for this including my interaction with yourselves, internally, & TDS etc

I hope to have this finalized next week and will share with you before submitting to FOI officer.

Can you advise if you have anything extra to add?

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** IE Freedom of Information <foi@irishrail.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 11:44 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: IE\_FOI\_412 - Memo  
FYI

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 21 October 2020 11:04  
**To:** IE Freedom of Information <foi@irishrail.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: IE\_FOI\_412 - Memo  
Thanks [REDACTED], I will check what I have and get back to you.  
You should send this to Heidi Reardon, as most official correspondence has to go through CEO's office, so she would be best placed to help here.

[REDACTED],  
Executive Assistant to the Director Infrastructure Manager  
Iarnród Éireann, Inchicore Works, Dublin 8, D08 K6Y3.  
☎: [REDACTED] 🌐: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

---

**From:** IE Freedom of Information  
**Sent:** 21 October 2020 10:58  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** IE\_FOI\_412 - Memo  
**Importance:** High

Hi [REDACTED]  
Please find attached IE\_FOI\_412 - Memo  
Kind Regards,

[REDACTED] 

[REDACTED]  
Data Protection/Freedom of Information Executive

# Memo

## Meamram

**To Go** [REDACTED]  
**Date Dáta** 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020  
**From Ó** [REDACTED]  
**Pages Leathanaigh** 1  
**Re Maidir le** IE\_FOI\_412  
**CC**  
**Phone Teil** [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

See freedom of information request below. This response is due back by the 16th November 2020. Can you please reply to this office by the 11th November if possible? Should you require longer, please contact us ASAP.

**Request** – All relevant documentation relating to:

All documents and correspondence related to complaints made about the level crossing located at Kilnageer, Breaghwy, County Mayo by the public and/or elected representatives since January 2015

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Data Protection/Freedom of Information Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
**Date:** Friday 8 May 2020 10:22:53  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

[REDACTED],

Would you be best to respond to this query?

Would you like me to draft a few lines.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
[REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:23:46 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received a notice of motion from Cllr [REDACTED] for the May Castlebar Municipal District meeting taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A notice of motion is the methodology for elected members to have items included for discussion on the meeting agenda. Can you arrange for a response from Iarnród Éireann to this notice of motion by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 please. The notice of motion is as follows;

*"That Mayo Co Council call on Iarnród Éireann to erect automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy for the safety of all concerned but most of all the general public who cross the lines by all modes of transport including cyclists and pedestrians"*

Thank you for your assistance with this matter, if you require any further details please contact me.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
**Ceann Cheantar Bardasach Chaisleán an Bharraigh**  
Head of Castlebar Municipal District

**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council**

[REDACTED]  
Aras An Chontae | Caisleán an Bharraigh | Contae Mhaigh Eo | F23 WF90  
[www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) | [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
**Date:** Tuesday 12 May 2020 18:19:39

---

[REDACTED], see comments below. We are intending on having a presence at the crossing next Tuesday and Wednesday as part of the commissioning of the new system. Can you confirm if anyone from your Dept requires to be there or if you wish to discuss our presence there. The objective is to j traduce the new light system to users, answer any queries etc. However, obviously following recent events, feelings in the area appear a bit elevated.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:56 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
Cathal,

Would you be able to provide details to [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
[REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 1:25:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
No problem [REDACTED].

I'll just need a few details:

- Have we at any point considered or proposed automation or closure?

We are always looking for opportunities for automation or closure however this is always dependant on budget availability. We have looked at schemes here historically however they have been price prohibitive relative to our funding at the time. It should be borne in mind that we have some 750 approx user worked crossings nationally and decisions on automation or closure also consider prioritisation of risk.

- If so, is it still on agenda? Are there obstacles locally?

It is not currently being considered for closure or automation however that's not to say we won't consider it in the future.

- If not, what is the rationale?

We would love to be in a position to close all of these crossings, especially those on public roads, however it is simply not possible at the moment. What we are doing is providing a system which will offer significant reductions in risk by providing road users with a light indication telling them if a train is coming or not, thus allowing them to make a more informed decision on whether it is safe to cross or not.

- Number of incidents in recent years, by year

I don't have these as they are kept in AIMS I believe?

- Expected date of operation of warning light system

Due to go live on 19th May. Ads in local papers have gone in to this effect this week and will run Thur/Fri (the ad specifically says week commencing 18th but actual turn on will be the 19th hence our 2 day presence up there). It was always planned for this date as it relates to the CRR authorisation etc and is not a response to the incident specifically.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On 8 May 2020, at 10:22, [REDACTED] > wrote:

[REDACTED],

Would you be best to respond to this query?

Would you like me to draft a few lines.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
[REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:23:46 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received a notice of motion from Cllr [REDACTED] for the May Castlebar Municipal District meeting taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A notice of motion is the methodology for elected members to have items included for discussion on the meeting agenda. Can you arrange for a response from Iarnród Éireann to this notice of motion by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 please. The notice of motion is as follows;

*" That Mayo Co Council call on Iarnród Éireann to erect automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy for the safety of all concerned but most of all the general public who cross the lines by all modes of transport including cyclists and pedestrians"*

Thank you for your assistance with this matter, if you require any further details please contact me.

Le gach dea-mhéin,



<image001.png>

<[image003.png](#)>



**Ceann Cheantar Bardasach Chaisleán an Bharraigh**  
Head of Castlebar Municipal District

**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council**



Aras An Chontae | Caisleán an Bharraigh | Contae Mhaigh Eo | F23 WF90  
[www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) | [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Mayo Co Co Presentation  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2020 09:21:01  
**Attachments:** [2006 LX Mayo Co Co.pptx](#)

---

Updated presentation attached.

It's a larger file, as I've included the short video of the DSS on slide 9 to demonstrate that – as well as clear views, and gated protection (shown on slide 8), the clarity of the alert provided.

Other main changes:

- Some of the stats on IM from slide 4 brought forward to graphic on slide 2
- Local info updated on slide 3
- Stat updated on slide 7

[REDACTED]

# Iarnród Éireann

Level crossing safety





# Iarnród Éireann Our Network, Our Services

Each week:



**4,915** train services run

**923,000** passengers carried

**629** carriages in our fleet

**144** stations served countrywide

**2,400** Kilometres track in our network

**348,000** kilometres travelled

**>5,000** bridges

**>4,000** employees

**937** Level crossings

# Surge in Demand pre-COVID



Journeys (m)	2017	2018	2019
Intercity	11.4m	12.4m	13.1m
Commuter	14.0m	14.6m	15.4m
DART	20.1m	20.9m	21.6m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45.5m</b>	<b>47.9m</b>	<b>50.1m</b>

- Westport/Ballina to Dublin: 603,000 journeys
- Freight – Ballina to Dublin Port containers, Westport to Waterford pulpwood

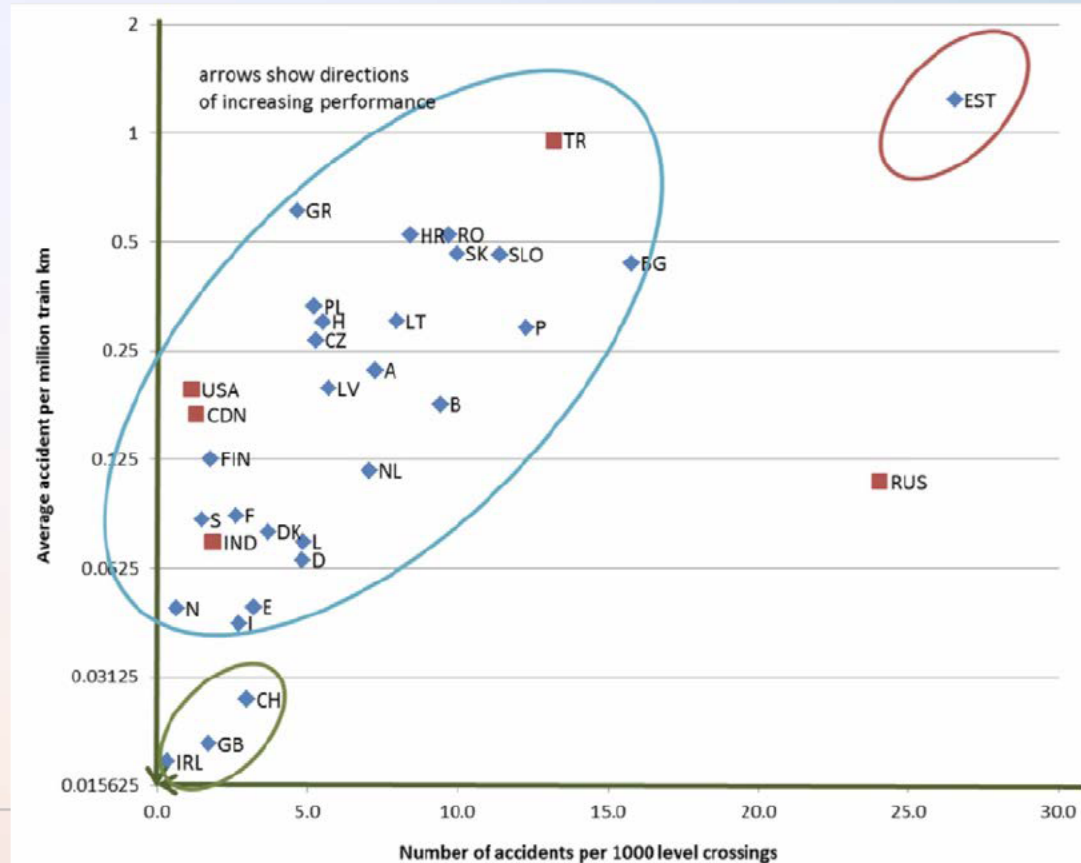


# Iarnród Éireann Level Crossing Overview

- 937 Level crossings on network
  - 546 User Operated Field Crossings
  - 144 CCTV
  - 137 User Worked on public and private roads
  - 51 Attended by gatekeeper
  - 59 other (e.g Pedestrian, barrow paths etc)
- Reduced from over 2,000 in past 20 years
- General objective to remove level crossings where possible, through closures, bridge (costly)
- Options such as bridges or automation, with limited funding, must be prioritised according to risk, and other interventions take place continuously to mitigate risk
  - Signage
  - Ensuring clear views
  - Surfaces
  - Education of users and enforcement of laws governing safe use
  - New technology
- Risk management – Level Crossing Risk Model, comprehensive tool with 140 inputs to assess risk and inform decisions, based in inspections, technical surveys, traffic counts amongst a suite of evaluation measures

# Iarnród Éireann Level Crossing Safety

- Internationally, Ireland has amongst strongest safety records for level crossing safety
- As well as measures mentioned, typically crossings such as seen at Kilnageer in Europe would not be protected by gates
- Result: in Europe, higher numbers of accidents and fatalities
- 2018 study shows Ireland amongst safest, normalised for train movements and numbers of level crossings





# Iarnród Éireann Occupational crossings on Public Roads

- XM240 Kilnageer example of an occupational crossing on a public road
- This means the crossing gates must be operated safely by the road user
- This requirement is embedded in Road Safety and Rail Safety legislation
- Crossing has a mandatory STOP sign, as well as other signage, meaning users must stop at crossings
- Improvements around network incl XM240 have seen:
  - Extended views
  - Improved signage
  - Improved road markings
- Safe use by road users is essential, and it is the law – in particular, always leave the gate closed after you, to protect the next user, and rail users

# Iarnród Éireann XM240 Kilnageer

- 19<sup>th</sup> of 137 user operated road crossings on risk model, pre-Decision Support System
- Planning permission secured in 2012 for bridge
- Cost estimated €2.2 million – railway was significantly underfunded at time. Cost of full barrier CCTV crossing est €1.5m
- New Decision Support System recently installed - €110k
- It is our intention to apply for PP for bridge again in 2021 so – if funding available – we could proceed
- Decision Support System improves safety for road users by giving a red light to warn if train is approaching, and amber to proceed at caution
- Does **not** change requirement for users to cross safely and close gates after use

# Iarnród Éireann XM240 Kilnageer







# Iarnród Éireann Decision Support Systems

- Allows us to reduce risk significantly at numerous crossings – cumulative reduction in risk highly significant
- Approaching train activates light, along with an audible warning
- Introduced following a comprehensive design and approval process, as required under EU Railway legislation, and overseen by independent rail safety regulator in Ireland, Commission for Railway Regulation
- Similar systems being developed and deployed across railway infrastructure internationally
- Kilnageer selected as amongst first crossings in country to receive system





## Iarnród Éireann Summary



- Safe management of level crossings is central to our safe management of the network
- Gated protection of user operated crossings crucial to achieving safety - key factor in strong Irish record
- Kilnageer amongst first crossings to receive new Decision Support System – colour light warning system
- We will reapply for planning permission for bridge, to allow works to proceed when funding and risk prioritisation allows
- We will continue to maintain signage, views and surfaces
- Urge members of the Community to continue to use crossing safely at all times, and to close gates after use – to protect their own safety, that of other road users, and of rail users



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy  
**Date:** Friday 8 May 2020 13:25:31  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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No problem [REDACTED]

I'll just need a few details:

- Have we at any point considered or proposed automation or closure?
- If so, is it still on agenda? Are there obstacles locally?
- If not, what is the rationale?
- Number of incidents in recent years, by year
- Expected date of operation of warning light system

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

On 8 May 2020, at 10:22, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

Would you be best to respond to this query?

Would you like me to draft a few lines.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Infrastructure Manager Athlone/Programme Manager CLRP  
Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, Old Railway Station,  
Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Old Midlands Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
[REDACTED]: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:23:46 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Notice of Motion - Automated barriers at Kilnageer Breaffy

Dear [REDACTED],

We have received a notice of motion from Cllr [REDACTED] for the May Castlebar Municipal District meeting taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A notice of motion is the methodology for elected members to have items included for discussion on the meeting agenda. Can you arrange for a response from Iarnród Éireann to this notice of motion by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 please. The notice of motion is as follows;  
*" That Mayo Co Council call on Iarnród Éireann to erect automated barriers at*

*Kilnageer Breaffy for the safety of all concerned but most of all the general public who cross the lines by all modes of transport including cyclists and pedestrians"*

Thank you for your assistance with this matter, if you require any further details please contact me.

Le gach dea-mhéin,



<image001.png>

[<image003.png>](#)



**Ceann Cheantar Bardasach Chaisleán an Bharraigh**  
Head of Castlebar Municipal District

**Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council**



Aras An Chontae | Caisleán an Bharraigh | Contae Mhaigh Eo | F23 WF90  
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