



30th July 2021



Re: FOI request IE_FOI_495


Dear 

I refer to your request dated 1st July 2021 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received on by my office on that date, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

Meeting minutes, notes, records and correspondence pertaining to any consultation between Fingal County Council (or agents on their behalf) and Irish Rail regarding the proposed Royal Canal Urban Greenway project between Castleknock and Clonsilla. This request to cover the period 1 Jan 2019 to date of receipt of the request.

Response:


I, , Decision Maker have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 1st July 2021.

Please find response document and schedule of records attached.

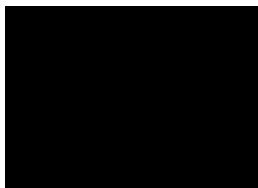
Rights of appeal

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. 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  or by email at foi@irishrail.ie

Yours sincerely,



FOI Decision Maker, Iarnród Éireann

Freedom of Information Request:
Schedule of Records for IE_FOI_495 : Summary for Decision Making

Record No.	Date of Record	Brief Description	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	09.06.2021	Letter to Anne-Marie Farrelly CEO FCC June 2021_Redacted	1	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information of others

Signed:

Freedom of Information / Data Protection Office

Chief Executive
Fingal County Council
County Hall
Main Street
Swords
County Dublin
K67 X8Y

Subject: Royal Canal Urban Greenway

Cc: as per the appendix, (via email)

Dear

At the public webinar hosted by Fingal County Council, on Tuesday June 1st last, Senior Engineer, stated that Fingal County Council has no intention of providing a greenway on the south bank. This is in relation to the Royal Canal Urban Greenway section between Coolmine and Castleknock bridges. Residents in Brompton are quite dismayed that such a declaration would be made at the commencement of the second public engagement on the greenway and we wish to know if his statement has your support.

It is an insult to the people the council purports to serve and to our elected representatives, to adopt such a position and reject the south canal side route out of hand. This, despite the overwhelming desire of residents, directly impacted by the routing of the greenway, to have it routed on the south canal side. By ignoring previous submissions and essentially indicating that upcoming submissions supporting the south side canal route will be ignored, Fingal County Council is regressing from democracy to dictatorship.

In light of his statement and in the interest of democracy and fairness we urge you to consider position in relation to this greenway project. There is no justification for his prejudice and staunch resistance to reason.

Regarding the greenway presentations, they are quite biased towards the north route so that readers not familiar with all the issues would easily be swayed to support the so called 'Preferred Option'. This, we feel is a deliberate ploy. Difficulties or constraints in relation to the south route are emphasised with little or no remedies offered. The opposite is the case when similar issues are mentioned on the north route. In addition, a reader of the presentations would get the impression that that the south bank greenery is almost as big as the north bank's when in fact it is only a fraction of it.

The format of the webinar also disadvantages attendees in that there is no provision for debate. Questions asked can be filtered so that only the easily answered ones are presented to the FCC/DBFL engineers with no possibility to challenge their responses. There is also a view that the proposed south canal cantilever construction, outlined in the webinar and the presentations, is deliberately overengineered in order to support the council's preference, and a view that a three metre wide greenway, which Waterways Ireland indicated as their preference (ref: DBFL meeting 8th February 2018), would enable a less complicated construction on the south canal side.

Residents' trust in Fingal County Council is practically at zero and it is incumbent on you to address this very regrettable situation.

We repeat our view that the south route is ultimately the best option; the wildlife corridor is preserved enabling it to be viewed from its best perspective; the 'Deep Sinking', which is an important tourist attraction, will be visible and importantly this route will have the wholesome support of the vast majority of residents in the area. Construction of the greenway on the south canal side will cause disruption for a couple of years. In contrast, construction of a north canal side route will cause even more disruption with residents having to share roads and green space, not designed for this purpose, with heavy volumes of construction traffic, which will be an addition to existing traffic volumes due to the proximity of Saint Francis Xavier primary schools and Roselawn Shopping Centre. Not only that, a north side canal route will also have a lifelong negative impact on people, wildlife, tourism and the reputation of Fingal County Council.

Clarification of [REDACTED] statement is of the utmost importance, not only regarding this consultation process but to future ones. What is the point in having consultations if Fingal County Council's policy is to hold consultations after final decisions are made? We look forward to a response from you as promised under Fingal County Council's Citizen Charter.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Chairperson BARA

Appendix

[REDACTED]

Irish Rail

[REDACTED]