

22nd April 2020

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Re: FOI request IE_FOI_354

Dear [REDACTED]

Firstly, let me apologise for the delay in this response. As previously advised, we are dealing with substantial delays in answering requests at present due to the COVID19 situation.

I refer to your request dated 19th February 2020 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received by my office on that date, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

- I would like to obtain information about how many set changes have been made in the last 12 months.

Unfortunately, I, Peter Smyth, am unable to grant your request on 22nd April 2020. Please see response detailing reasons below

Response:

- By “information”, I interpret this to mean the numbers of how many set changes occurred in 2019. The CME department is responsible for fleet maintenance and delivery of trains to match timetable plans.
- Each timetabled service has an identified set type and consist size e.g. 6 carriages. There are at least three reasons or purposes for set changes occurring - (1) Unplanned due to a breakdown or as a consequence of an incident (2) Planned short notice where a number of services can be allocated to a different train type or size which might be shorter or longer in consists depending on demand e.g. a concert with high levels of bookings emerging and (3) Planned in advance where for operational reasons a train is planned substituted with a different size or another type e.g. the Galway Races held over several days will have longer trains planned or the early morning Enterprise to Belfast service will be changed for a railcar for 6 weeks due to improved performance in autumn low rail adhesion conditions.
- The decision makers behind these changes are varied – some will be maintenance depot driven, some will be operational staff at key stations, some will be driven by commercial teams and operations interaction. Until the start of 2020 we did not centrally record (between the various departments) all the set changes made and consequently I am unable to give an accurate figure for the year as requested.

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 01, 7034293.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Peter Smyth,
Decision Maker,
CME Dept,
Iarnród Éireann**