

Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

T 01 703 4293 E [foi@irishrail.ie](mailto:foi@irishrail.ie) W [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)



27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Re: FOI request IE\_FOI\_475

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 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:**

Correspondence to and from Louth County Council in relation to the Louth Development plan objective of reopening Dunleer Railway Station.

Any Correspondence in relation to the reopening of Dunleer Railway Station

Any internal meetings, reports or files in relation to the reopening of Dunleer

The decision maker handling your request is Mr. Sheldon Norton.

**Response:**

I, [REDACTED], Decision Maker have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 27<sup>th</sup> 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](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 by email at [foi@irishrail.ie](mailto:foi@irishrail.ie)

Yours sincerely,

PP,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], FOI Decision Maker, Iarnród Éireann

Freedom of Information Request:  
 Schedule of Records for **IE\_FOI\_475** : 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	2013	IE_FOI_475 Doc 1 - 2013	12	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
2	2014	IE_FOI_475 Doc 2 - 2014	21	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
3	2015	IE_FOI_475 Doc 3 - 2015	3	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
4	2016	IE_FOI_475 Doc 4 - 2016	1	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
5	2017	IE_FOI_475 Doc 5 - 2017	1	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
6	2018	IE_FOI_475 Doc 6 - 2018	1	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
7	2019	IE_FOI_475 Doc 7 - 2019	1	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
8	2020	IE_FOI_475 Doc 8 - 2020	3	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others
9	2021	IE_FOI_475 Doc 9 - 2021	2	Part Grant	S37	Personal Information relating to others

Signed: [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information / Data Protection Office

**Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chongaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1


T 01 703 2454 E info@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie



Co. Louth

14<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear 

Your email letter of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, and also to correspondence from yourself to , Assistant CEO (Engineering), dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, relating to your concerns regarding the deterioration of Dunleer Station.

This building has been surveyed regularly over the last number of years, and, after each report, any unsafe masonry and roof items are removed.

After the most recent survey, it is intended for the area to be hoarded off, for the safe removal of any further deteriorated items.

We understand the heritage value of this structure, and it is our intention to render this building safe, to the best of our capability.

Thank you again for taking the time to bring your genuine concerns and interest in this building to our attention.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Dunleer Station  
**Date:** Thursday 6 March 2014 12:52:01  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]-Dunleer-Sept 2012.pdf  
[ATT14649671.txt](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hi [REDACTED]

I have spoken to [REDACTED], and can confirm that currently there are no plans to reopen Dunleer Station in the foreseeable future.

For information, in 2013 funding was made available under the current capital programme to make safe the roof and adjacent brickwork to provide protection to same as a mitigation issue for the maintenance of the building. This was done in consultation with Louth Co. Council Conservation Officer. Our Building & Facilities Management and Architectural support met with their Conservation Officer on site on 19th April to discuss Conservation Methodology and proposed Plan for this structure  
Presently we do not have funding to undertake extensive remedial works as the building is of a non operational use and all budgets are being utilised to fulfil the safety needs of live railway premises.

I hope the above is sufficient.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

Office of the Director Infrastructure Manager  
Iarnród Éireann, Inchicore Works, Dublin 8.

☎: +353 1 703 3849 📠: +353 1 8860572 ✉: [REDACTED] 🌐: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)



Please consider the environment before printing this email

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2014 15:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

Attached from DTTAS, can you get an update on this (by Friday please)

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2014 15:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

We have a query from the Ministers Office about Dunleer station

Below is the last reference we have to it

Can you forward a brief note on the current state of play with Dunleer, eg any plans to re-open,

Minister's Office want a reply by **Friday 07 March**

Thanks – sorry for short timescale

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2012 15:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dunleer Station

H [REDACTED]

Please find attached a copy of the letter sent by external post to [REDACTED] today.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], CEO

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station

Attached is an email the Department received from [REDACTED] in relation to Dunleer Railway station. Below is the reply we sent to him. Please could you reply to [REDACTED] directly and cc me with your reply.

Regards

<<FW: dunleer railway station>>

**Public Transport Investment Division**  
Tel: 01) 6041634

Email: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dunleer Station

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Co. Louth

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your recent email regarding Dunleer railway station.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, has responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. Matters relating to the development of new stations and the reopening of closed stations are operational matters for Iarnród Éireann. Therefore, I have forwarded your correspondence to the Chief Executive of Irish Rail for attention and direct reply to you.

**Public Transport Investment Division**  
Tel: 01) 6041634

Email: [REDACTED]

Supporting The Gathering Ireland 2013. Go to [www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com) and Be Part of it!

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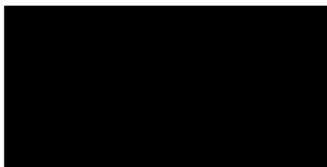
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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh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



Co. Louth.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Mr. 

I refer to your email to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 concerning the possibility of re-opening Dunleer Station and the current condition of the station buildings.

I shall ensure that my colleagues in Buildings & Facilities Department are made aware of the comments relating to the poor conditions of the station building with a view to assessing any immediate mitigation that need to be taken to protect the structure.

Iarnród Éireann has no immediate plans to re-open the station. Our analysis to date has concluded that a new station at Dunleer would have modest boardings and while the population has increased in the catchment area over recent years we believe that it would not justify the investment in re-opening the station given the proximity of both Drogheda and Dundalk railway stations. This could possibly be reviewed if substantial population growth was planned for the village.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



**Assistant Chief Executive**



**Oifig an Aire**

44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

**Office of the Minister**

44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.



**An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport



Tel: +353 1 670 7444    Local: 1890 443311    Fax: +353 1 604 1183    Web: www.dttas.ie    Email: minister@dtas.ie

[Redacted]

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

Chief Executive  
05 MAR 2013

**For attention and direct reply, please**

[Redacted]

**Private Secretary**

4 March 2013

Our Ref: MLVC13/556

Mr [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear Mr [Redacted]

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Mr [Redacted] T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 regarding Dunleer railway station.

As this is a day-to-day operational matter for Iarnród Éireann, in which the Minister has no role in, I have forwarded your email to the office of Mr. [Redacted] Chief Executive of Iarnród Éireann for attention and direct reply to you.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Private Secretary to [Redacted]

**MINISTER'S OFFICE**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 24 February 2013 09:29  
To: MINISTER'S OFFICE  
Subject: Fwd: RE: FAO [REDACTED] Assistant Chief Executive re: Dunleer railway station buildings.  
Attachments: IMG.pdf; dunleer railway station 003.JPG; dunleer railway station 001.JPG

mLVCI3/556

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
TOURISM AND SPORT

28 FEB 2013

MINISTERS OFFICE

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Fri, 14 Dec 2012 13:27:52 -0000 (GMT)  
Subject: RE: FAO [REDACTED] /Assistant Chief Executive re: Dunleer railway station buildings.  
Hi,

This is some of the correspondence with Irish Rail concerning the terrible condition that Dunleer railway station has been allowed to fall into. This is a preserved structure and should be kept at least watertight to stop further collapse. As with everything these days they are pleading poverty, I can see why now that their salaries have been exposed in the Independent.

Two things need to happen, firstly the repair and refurbishment of the station and the second is the reopening of the station.

They cannot judge boarding numbers if the station is closed, and we do have a good surplus of rolling stock.

I hope your department will look into this and I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

As I am sure you will understand it is our objective to have the rail network as accessible to as many customers as possible and still provide a fast and efficient service. However the current recession has hit everyone badly and in the case of Iarnrod Eireann we face a critical financial period with falling passenger numbers, falling revenue, subvention being cut and capital funding for enhancement almost stopped. Thus unfortunately we are not in a position to consider the reopening of Dunleer station in the short term. I will request our colleagues in Building maintenance to assess if anything can be done in the meantime to arrest the deterioration of the structure, thank you for your note on the matter, best regards Don.

-----Original Message-----

From: IE Info IrishRail  
Sent: 28 November 2012 10:47  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: FAO [REDACTED] Assistant Chief Executive re: Dunleer railway station buildings.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 28 November 2012 09:22  
To: IE Info IrishRail  
Subject: FAO [REDACTED] Assistant Chief Executive re: Dunleer railway station buildings.

Dear Mr [REDACTED]



Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1

Tel: 01 703 2454 F: 01 703 2608 E: info@irishrail.ie W: www.irishrail.ie



[REDACTED]  
Co. Louth.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I refer to your email to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 concerning the possibility of re-opening Dunleer Station and the current condition of the station buildings.

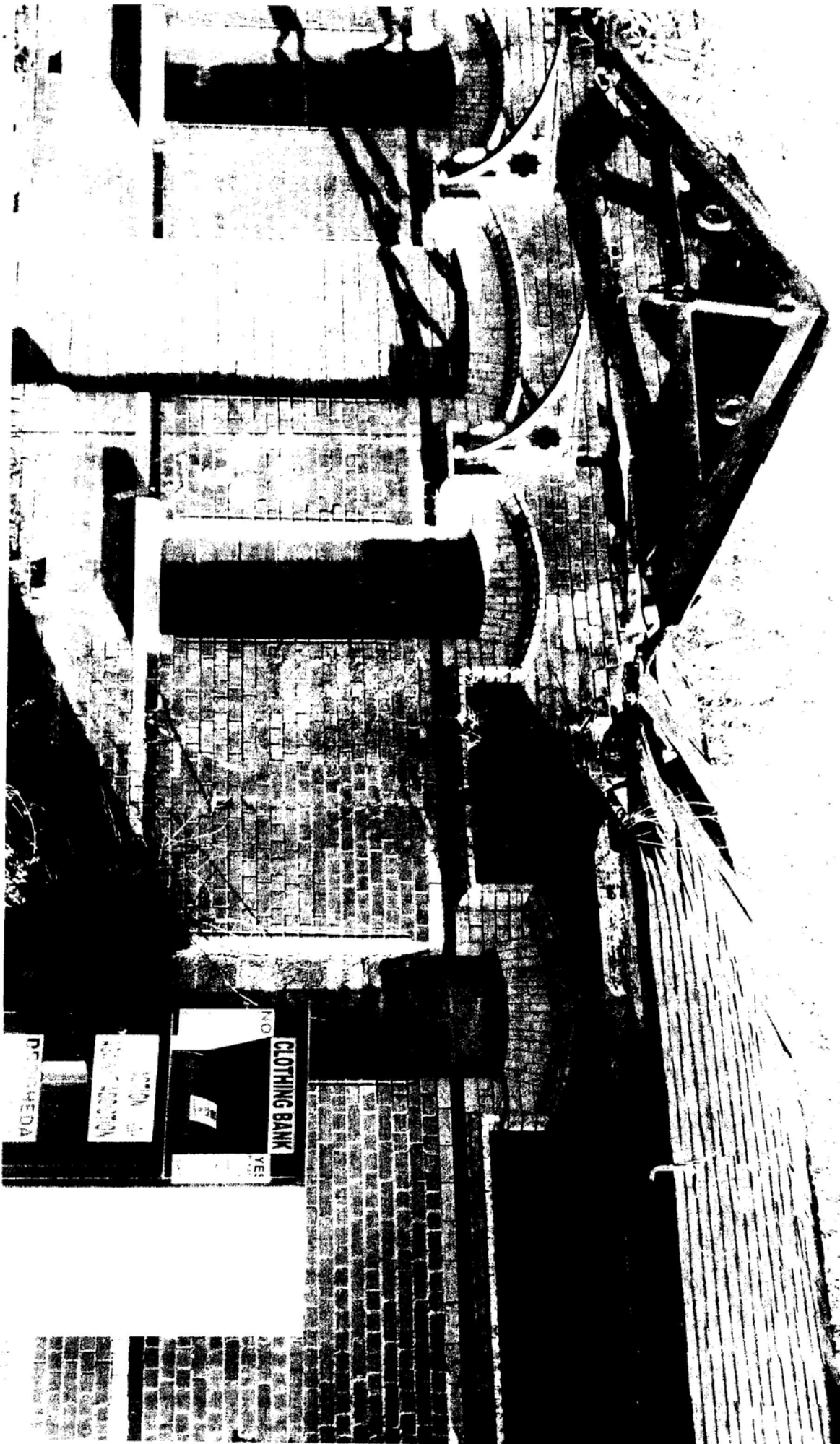
I shall ensure that my colleagues in Buildings & Facilities Department are made aware of the comments relating to the poor conditions of the station building with a view to assessing any immediate mitigation that need to be taken to protect the structure.

Iarnród Éireann has no immediate plans to re-open the station. Our analysis to date has concluded that a new station at Dunleer would have modest boardings and while the population has increased in the catchment area over recent years we believe that it would not justify the investment in re-opening the station given the proximity of both Drogheda and Dundalk railway stations. This could possibly be reviewed if substantial population growth was planned for the village.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Assistant Chief Executive**



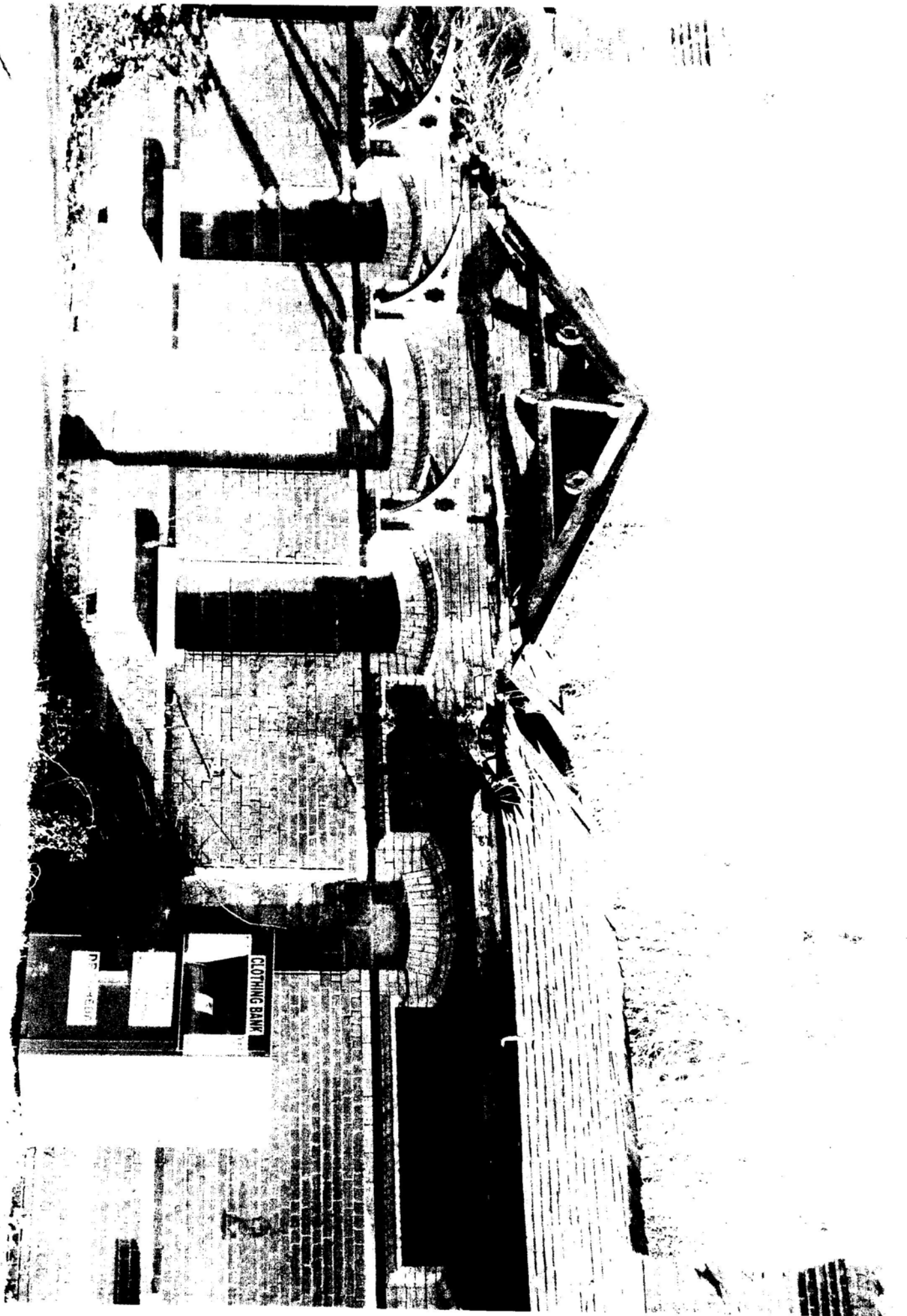
CLOTHING BANK

NO

YES

DORCHETA

DORCHETA



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** AK 3443 Senator [REDACTED] obo [REDACTED] Reopening of Dunleer Train Station  
**Date:** Thursday 15 May 2014 16:58:16  
**Attachments:** [AK 3443 Ack Refer IE.pdf](#)  
[Senator \[REDACTED\].Reopening of Dunleer Train Station.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

---

H [REDACTED]

The attached scans refer regarding Representations from Senator [REDACTED] in relation to re-opening Dunleer Train Station.

Senator [REDACTED] has received a standard acknowledgement from the Department, through this office, stating that the matter is more proper for Irish Rail - copy attached.

If you could arrange for a direct reply to issue to Senator [REDACTED] from Mr. [REDACTED] on this issue (along with the customary copy for our records) it would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Office of the Minister of State [REDACTED] TD,  
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport,  
Transport House,  
44 Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

An tAire Alan Kelly T.D.  
An Aire Stait  
Iompar Poiblí agus Comaltéirí  
An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasoireacht & Spóirt  
44 Stráid Chill Dara  
Baile Átha Cliath 2



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

Alan Kelly T.D.  
Minister of State  
Public & Commuter Transport  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport  
44 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: AK / 3443

Senator [REDACTED]  
Seanad Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

15 May 2014

Dear Senator,

I refer to your letter of 06 May 2014 in which you make representations on behalf of Mr. [REDACTED] with regard to the re – opening of Dunleer train station.

As Minister for Public and Commuter Transport I have responsibility for policy and overall funding of public transport. Matters relating to the re – opening of railway stations, such as at Dunleer, are a matter for Iarnrod Eireann in the first instance.

I understand from Iarnrod Eireann that there are no current plans to re – open the station at Dunleer. As you will be aware, CIE is in a difficult financial position and is dependent on continued bank funding. It has no resources of its' own available to fund new projects and no such proposal has been made to either this Department or the National Transport Authority. The lifetime of this Governments' Capital Investment Plan runs to 2016 and within that capital plan the priority is to protect the operational network and maintain safety standards, rather than the opening of new stations.

Consideration of a new Government Capital Investment Plan beyond 2016 has begun and consideration can be given to this matter within that. However, this will depend on the overall funding made available to transport for all modes, and within that, the funds made available for heavy rail. The priority for heavy rail post 2016 will be, as at the moment, the protection of the operational network and the maintenance of safety standards. If there are additional funds after that – and this is not certain - there will be competing demands between the opening of new lines, the improvement of existing lines, rolling stock upgrades, the upgrade of in – use train stations and the opening of new stations in different parts of the country.



All of these competing demands will be subject to robust analysis and will require strong business cases justifying their value as well as a demonstration of their potential to significantly increase patronage on the rail network.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Mr. [REDACTED] Chief Executive Officer of Iarnrod Eireann, for his attention and direct reply to you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Minister of State for Public and Commuter Transport



Minister [REDACTED]  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Senator [REDACTED]  
*Seanad Labour Spokesperson on Education,  
Disability, Equality and Mental Health*



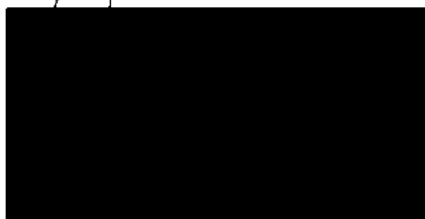
6 May 2014

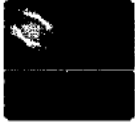
Dear Minister [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed recent correspondence I have received from Mr [REDACTED] regarding the re-opening of Dunleer train station.

I would appreciate if you could please advise on the status of re-opening Dunleer train station at the earliest opportunity.

Best wishes,





To:  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: Dunleer Railway station

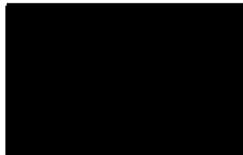
A Chara,

I would respectfully ask if the issue of reopening Dunleer train station for the benefit of everyone living in the village, as well as the greater part of mid-Louth could receive your support. The commercial and social benefits to the local community of reconnecting Dunleer to the Rail network speak for the themselves, and it would relieve pressure on Drogheda and Dundalk stations thus benefiting the county as a whole.

Information on the current ownership, the barriers to reopening the station, and lack of progress thereof is hard for the general public to obtain. We hear vague excuses such as "NAMA land" from the railway operator, however if anything NAMA's involvement should be a bonus, since this is a state owned entity with direct accountability to the people of Ireland, and this is no time to sit on an asset of this importance. It seems unbelievable that a county with the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> largest urban areas on the Irish sea is serviced by fewer train stations than it had in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century....

Therefore having brought this issue to your attention, I am hopeful that you will exercise your judgement and political experience to pursue this matter vigorously via the appropriate channels.

Yours sincerely



Dunleer

Co.Louth

Ireland

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Dunleer Station  
**Date:** Wednesday 5 March 2014 15:29:38  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED] - Dunleer- Sept 2012.pdf  
[ATT14649671.txt](#)  
**Importance:** High

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[REDACTED]

We have a query from the Ministers Office about Dunleer station

Below is the last reference we have to it

Can you forward a brief note on the current state of play with Dunleer, eg any plans to re-open,

Minister's Office want a reply by **Friday 07 March**

Thanks – sorry for short timescale

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2012 15:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dunleer Station

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached a copy of the letter sent by external post to Mr [REDACTED] today.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
For [REDACTED], on Behalf of [REDACTED], CEO

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station

Attached is an email the Department received from Mr. [REDACTED] in relation to Dunleer Railway station. Below is the reply we sent to him. Please could you reply to Mr. [REDACTED] directly and cc me with your reply.

Regards

<<FW: dunleer railway station>>

[REDACTED]

**Public Transport Investment Division**

**Tel: 01) 6041634**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:29

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Dunleer Station

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dunleer

Co. Louth

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I refer to your recent email regarding Dunleer railway station.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, has responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. Matters relating to the development of new stations and the reopening of closed stations are operational matters for Iarnród Éireann. Therefore, I have forwarded your correspondence to the Chief Executive of Irish Rail for attention and direct reply to you.

[REDACTED]

**Public Transport Investment Division**

**Tel: 01) 6041634**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

Supporting The Gathering Ireland 2013. Go to [www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com) and Be Part of it!

\*\*\*\*\*  
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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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]  
Dunleer,  
Co. Louth.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I refer to your email to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 concerning the possibility of re-opening Dunleer Station and the current condition of the station buildings.

I shall ensure that my colleagues in Buildings & Facilities Department are made aware of the comments relating to the poor conditions of the station building with a view to assessing any immediate mitigation that need to be taken to protect the structure.

Iarnród Éireann has no immediate plans to re-open the station. Our analysis to date has concluded that a new station at Dunleer would have modest boardings and while the population has increased in the catchment area over recent years we believe that it would not justify the investment in re-opening the station given the proximity of both Drogheda and Dundalk railway stations. This could possibly be reviewed if substantial population growth was planned for the village.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

## **Dunleer – June 2014**

Iarnród Éireann currently has no plans to develop a railway station at Dunleer, nor is there currently any funded third-party proposal for such a development.

Iarnród Éireann's policy is that new stations should be externally funded, either as part of the Exchequer-funded capital investment programme or through private development contributions.

While no specific business case has been developed for Dunleer, it is believed to be highly unlikely to generate the required return on investment to justify inclusion in Exchequer-funded investment programmes. Based on business case for similar population elsewhere, a Dunleer Station would be expected to generate 63 boarders per day. The estimate for a basic, accessible commuter station would be in excess of ■ million.

Service impacts on existing services would be to add between 3 and 3.5 minutes onto journey time.

We would of course liaise with any third party with a funded proposal also.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Stop@Dunleer - Proposed letter to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport  
**Date:** Wednesday 30 April 2014 16:06:18  
**Attachments:** [Dear \[REDACTED\].docx](#)

---

[REDACTED]

Could IÉ provide material for the Ministers meeting, as outlined below, by 06 June 2014

Thanks

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 April 2014 12:51  
**To:** Public\_Transport\_Investment\_Division  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Stop@Dunleer - Proposed letter to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport

Good afternoon,

Please see attached. The Minister is meeting with the Minister'/Deputies/Senators on the 18th June to discuss a proposal for a train station in Dunleer, Co. Louth.

Could we please get briefing on this matter by cob 11th June 2014.

Best regards

[REDACTED]  
Diary Team  
Minister Varadkar' Office  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Phone No: 01 - 6041085

Fax No: 01 - 6041183

Begin forwarded message:

>  
> Dear Elected Representative,  
>  
> There was a meeting in Ardee on Monday last, of Stop@Dunleer, a body that seeks to re-open Dunleer railway station, at which a proposal by [REDACTED] TD, seconded by [REDACTED] TD, that the committee draft a letter to the minister for signing by all 8 Co Louth TDs and Senators in support of this objective. We would respectfully request that you confirm to us by return email on or before next Friday April 25th.  
>  
> Please return a scanned signed copy via email or by post to the address below.  
>  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
>  
> Dunleer  
>  
> Co. Louth  
>

>  
>  
> Thanks in advance for your support and prompt reply.

>  
>  
> Kind Regards

>  
>  
>  
> Dear Minister

> Our letter is a result of a recent meeting with the committee of Stop@Dunleer... The sole objective of this group is the re-opening of Dunleer Railway Station. As it is a stated objective of the County Development plan, their aim is to revive this local connection, at the centre of a 40km stretch of non-stop rail track - the longest unserved distance between Irish Rail stations, on this important economic Dublin-Belfast corridor. This region is forecast to have 60% of the population of the island, and produce more than 70% of the GDP by 2020, as predicted by a DCU report by Prof Brian MacCraith.

> Ever since the station shut its doors in 1984, there have been calls for its re-opening. To give some of the background and reasoning for this contemporary ambition, we want to refer to its' inclusions in many commended reports, studies and plans over the past 15 years.

> In 1999 An Taisce the National Trust for Ireland compiled and launched an Urban Design Strategy, supported by Louth County Council, the Heritage Council, the School of Architecture University College Dublin and the Dunleer community. Therein the potential value of the Train Station was recognised.

> In 2003 a Scoping Study for the Regeneration of the Rail Corridor Area between Drogheda and Lurgan was compiled by Environmental Research Management on behalf of Mourne and Newry District Council, Craigavon District Council and Louth County Council. The report recommended to Louth County Council that it continue to work towards the reopening of Dunleer Station.

> The Louth County Development plan 2003-2009 stated on page 128 under policy P 8.4 "to seek the reopening of Dunleer railway station."

> The 2010-2016 Louth County Development Plan on page 163 under policy TC19 "To secure, in co-operation with Iarnród Éireann, improved rail services in County Louth, particularly for the mid and south Louth areas."

> Some facts as are recorded. When the development pressure was at it's height in 2006 a planning application was submitted to develop lands adjacent to the station with no regard for the potential reopening of the facility, even though it was a clearly stated objective of the County Development Plan. Subsequent to three appeals by An Taisce, a prescribed body under the planning acts, all appeals were upheld by An Bord Pleanála. This was primarily because the proposed developments would prejudice the reopening of the train station.

> The Dunleer Local Area Plan 2010 - 2016 page 32 7.5.6 Rail

> While Dunleer has no rail access, the Dublin - Belfast railway line passes through the town. Louth Local Authorities remain committed to reinstating rail travel for the mid-Louth area and effectively the re-opening of the railway station in Dunleer or another location serving mid-Louth would prove a significant resource to the town and the surrounding hinterland.

> Policy, IN 21 To encourage rail use as a sustainable mode of transport and to promote the reopening of the rail service to the town and to ensure the future protection of lands adjacent to the railway station from inappropriate development that could jeopardise the long term likelihood of the reopening of the rail station.

> The Mid Louth area is the home of 60,000+ people, - that is the population catchment potentially able to travel to Dunleer station more efficiently and quickly than either of the other local options, with less interruption to traffic in Drogheda or Dundalk. With Dunleer station re-opened, we estimate that at least 200

cars would be taken out of each of these towns at rush hour times each day.

>

> In this relatively compact region we have some of the most internationally recognised indigenous industries - Kingspan, Suretank, Anglo Beef Pkg, Glen Dimplex; successful export led industries and global leaders in their fields, these are expanding companies who require the best employees to sustain their continued success. Making this region more accessible can only aid this aim, and promote all local economic sectors, including sensitive and sustainable development of the area.

>

> The best and the brightest need education options. There are ten third level institutions on this corridor accommodating over 150,000 students. The residents of Mid Louth and beyond deserve the chance to be able to choose their third level education college options, and a local train station would allow for this wealth of choice.

>

> This is also a quality of life issue - a social issue. Train travel is pleasurable and efficient - people can work on the train, it is reliable and rarely affected by weather. As well as being the safest form of ground transportation, it is also the most equitable and accessible form of transport. Most importantly however, it addresses the National, European and Global necessity that carbon emissions are urgently reduced.

>

> Former President ██████████ stated last week the 14th of April on Morning Ireland, that world leaders have at most two decades to get this issue corrected. A vital strand to this objective is re-thinking our travel policies and taking more vehicles off our congested roads and out of our cities and towns. The recent IPCC 5th assessment report and the Working Group 3 report paints a very clear picture of the consequences of "business as usual". This local initiative will contribute in a small way to our national commitment regarding our reduction of Green House Gas Emissions.

>

> In relation to Tourism - a growing, and increasingly important driver of the economic recovery, the Mourne, Cooley, Gullion proposed UNESCO Geopark provides an excellent counterpoint to the existing UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bru na Boinne. Between them, they create an emerging but important tourism corridor. In line with the principles of sustainable tourism, it is important that visitors are afforded a range of transport modes including rail, bike and walking, in addition to the car and public bus transport, along this corridor, with plenty of opportunities to stop off along the way. Dunleer is convenient to both the Boyne Valley, home to over 22 historic sites and world renowned heritage such as Newgrange, Tara, Monasterboice, Oldbridge, as well as event and holiday locations such as Tankardstown, Bellingham Castle and Clogherhead. The heritage, sport and culture of the locality will become more attractive with the improvement of transport links and accessibility. The many fine houses and gardens of Mid-Louth that are now open to the public are amenities that would be better served with this revitalised service.

>

> It is mooted that rail is not money making and this may well be the case. However, for reasons of economic, social and environmental sustainability, rail is endorsed and promoted by the European Commission. It is recognised that there is a social dividend pay back. The TEN-T programme has a budget of EURO 26bn between 2014-20, with the objective to promote growth and expansion in both passenger and freight transportation. For all the reasons stated before, the Commission has plainly been very active in restructuring the European rail transport market and strengthening the position of railways vis-à-vis other transport modes.

>

> So our proposal is not only practical today, but prescient and sensible for the future.

>

> We the undersigned as members of Oireachtas, in support of the Stop@Dunleer initiative, ask of the Minister for Transport to allocate resources to research and attain funds that are available to assist in this widely supported objective. We ask also to have Irish Rail execute a definitive plan to reopen Dunleer Train Station in a time efficient manner as we are well aware at this point of the historical context of this objective.

>

> We ask of you to afford us the opportunity to meet with you regarding this issue.

>

>

>

>

> Yours Sincerely,

>

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Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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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[REDACTED] TD

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dear Deputy [REDACTED]

I refer to your Dáil questions No. 934 & 935 to [REDACTED] T.D., Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport in relation Dunleer Station, which has been passed to me to reply to you directly.

PQ 934

*“To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide an update on the current status of Dunleer, County Louth train station; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

PQ 935

*“To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide an update on the status of re-opening Dunleer, in County Louth train station; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Iarnród Éireann has no plans at present to reopen Dunleer Station. The company's policy for a number of years has been that new station openings must be funded by a third party. The company is not funded by the Exchequer or by any private interest to this end, nor are there any funding proposals under consideration to its knowledge. However, the company will ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening funded by third parties in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dunleer Station  
**Date:** Thursday 13 March 2014 12:39:21  
**Importance:** High

---

[REDACTED]

More queries on Dunleer, we have reps & PQ's on the issue as well.

1. What is the customer demand for a re-opened station, has any analysis been undertaken?
2. What would be the cost of re-opening
3. What would be the impact, if it re-opened, on existing services, eg stopping times etc

Could IE revert by Wednesday of next week

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 March 2014 12:42  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED],

I can confirm that currently there are no plans to reopen Dunleer Station in the foreseeable future.

In 2013 funding was made available under the current capital programme to make safe the roof and adjacent brickwork to provide protection to same as a mitigation issue for the maintenance of the building. This was done in consultation with Louth Co. Council Conservation Officer. Our Building & Facilities Management and Architectural support met with their Conservation Officer on site on 19th April to discuss Conservation Methodology and proposed Plan for this structure. Currently we do not have funding to undertake extensive remedial works as the building is of a non operational use and all budgets are being utilised to fulfil the safety needs of live railway premises.

I hope the above is sufficient.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For [REDACTED]  
Chief Executive Officer, Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Dublin 1  
☎ 01 703 2454 ✉ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2014 15:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

We have a query from the Ministers Office about Dunleer station

Below is the last reference we have to it

Can you forward a brief note on the current state of play with Dunleer, eg any plans to re-open,

Minister's Office want a reply by **Friday 07 March**

Thanks – sorry for short timescale

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2012 15:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dunleer Station

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached a copy of the letter sent by external post to [REDACTED] today.

Regards

[REDACTED]

For [REDACTED], on Behalf of [REDACTED], CEO

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:35  
**To:** [REDACTED] (IR Connolly); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Dunleer Station

Attached is an email the Department received from Mr. [REDACTED] in relation to Dunleer Railway station. Below is the reply we sent to him. Please could you reply to Mr. [REDACTED] directly and cc me with your reply.

Regards

<<FW: dunleer railway station>>

[REDACTED]  
**Public Transport Investment Division**  
**Tel: 01) 6041634**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 11:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dunleer Station

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Dunleer

Co. Louth

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I refer to your recent email regarding Dunleer railway station.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, has responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. Matters relating to the development of new stations and the reopening of closed stations are operational matters for Iarnród Éireann. Therefore, I have forwarded your correspondence to the Chief Executive of Irish Rail for attention and direct reply to you.

[REDACTED]  
**Public Transport Investment Division**  
**Tel: 01) 6041634**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

Supporting The Gathering Ireland 2013. Go to [www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com) and Be Part of it!

\*\*\*\*\*  
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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\*\*\*\*\*

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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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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\*\*\*\*\*

Senator [REDACTED]  
Seanad Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dear Senator [REDACTED]

I refer to your letter to Minister [REDACTED] on behalf of Mr [REDACTED] in relation Dunleer Station, which has been passed to me to reply to you directly.

Iarnród Éireann has no plans at present to reopen Dunleer Station. The company's policy for a number of years has been that new station openings must be funded by a third party. The company is not funded by the Exchequer or by any private interest to this end, nor are there any funding proposals under consideration to its knowledge. However, the company will ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening funded by third parties in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive



Senator [REDACTED]  
Seanad Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

11 July 2014

Dear Senator [REDACTED]

I refer to your letter to Minister [REDACTED] Office of 6<sup>th</sup> May in relation to representations on behalf of Mr [REDACTED] regarding the reopening of Dunleer train station. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Iarnród Éireann currently has no plans to develop a railway station at Dunleer, nor is there currently any funded third-party proposal for such a development.

Iarnród Éireann's policy is that new stations should be externally funded, either as part of the Exchequer-funded capital investment programme or through private development contributions.

While no specific business case has been developed for Dunleer, it is believed to be highly unlikely to generate the required return on investment to justify inclusion in Exchequer-funded investment programmes. Based on business case for similar population elsewhere, a Dunleer Station would be expected to generate 63 boarders per day. The estimate for a basic, accessible commuter station would be in excess of €4 million.

Service impacts on existing services would be to add between 3 and 3.5 minutes onto journey time.

We would of course liaise with any third party with a funded proposal also.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive

**Chief Executive, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Connolly Station, Dublin 1

T 01 703 2454 F 01 703 2608 E info@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie

Mr [REDACTED]  
Senior Executive  
Louth County Council  
County Hall  
Millennium Building  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth

04 October 2016

Dear M [REDACTED]

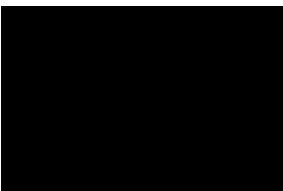
Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> March.

There are no plans at present under consideration to open a station at Dunleer. Both capital and current funding to Iarnród Éireann has been reduced dramatically in recent years, and within available funding we must prioritise essential maintenance.

For some time, it has been our policy that new stations should be funded by third parties, and meet required business cases – either external capital investment or developer funded, and there is no proposal from any third party to develop a station at Dunleer at present or provide funding.

While the medium term horizon would not suggest a significant change in this funding environment, we would be happy to arrange for a representative to attend a future meeting of Louth County Council to discuss this and other areas of interest to councillors.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE LÚ • LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr [REDACTED]  
Chief Executive  
Iarnrod Eireann Head Office  
Connolly Station  
Amiens Street  
Dublin 1.

Our Ref

4<sup>th</sup> March 2015



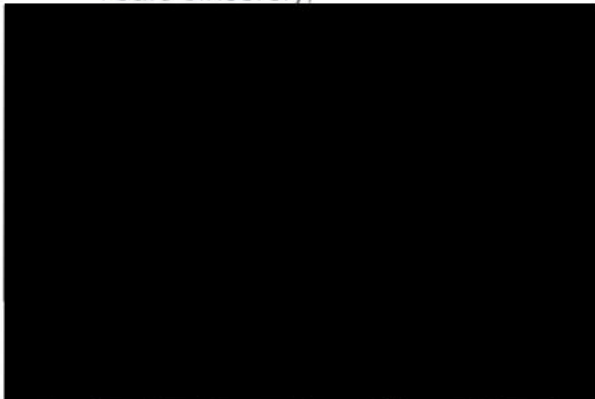
Dear Sir,

At the February meeting of Louth County Council the members considered and supported a motion calling for the re-opening of the Dunleer Railway Station in County Louth.

The members also requested that a representative from your organisation would consider attending a future meeting of Louth County Council to discuss this matter further.

I trust you will give this matter your consideration and revert to me in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Executive Officer / Meetings Administrator

Comhairle Contae Lú  
Halla an Chontae  
Ionad na Milaoise  
Dún Dealgan  
Contae Lú

Louth County Council  
County Hall  
Millenium Building  
Dundalk  
County Louth

Locall 1890 202303  
T + 353 42 9335457  
F + 353 42 9334549  
E info@louthcoco.ie  
W www.louthcoco.ie



Chief Executive, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Connolly Station, Dublin 1

T 01 703 2454 F 01 703 2608 E info@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie

Mr [REDACTED]

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

15<sup>th</sup> January 2015

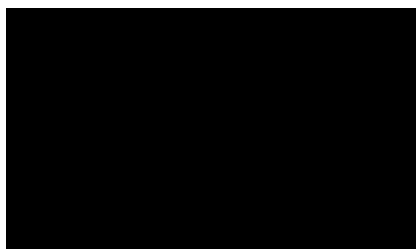
Dear Deputy [REDACTED]

I refer to your Dáil questions No. 933 to Mr. [REDACTED], T.D., Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport in relation Dunleer Station, which has been passed to me to reply to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans to re-open Dunleer railway station; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Iarnród Éireann has no plans at present to reopen Dunleer Station. The company's policy for a number of years has been that new station openings must be funded by a third party. The company is not funded by the Exchequer or by any private interest to this end, nor are there any funding proposals under consideration to its knowledge. However, the company will ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening funded by third parties in the future.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**



**Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6**

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

T 01 703 2454 E info@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie

██████████  
████████████████████  
  
31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Dear Ms. ██████████

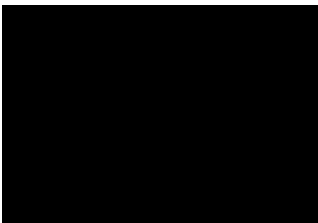
Thank you for your correspondence and observations relating to the potential re-opening of a rail station in Dunleer.

Iarnród Éireann receives many requests for both new greenfield stations and disused stations to be re-opened throughout the network. Ultimately, any new station proposal must meet the following criteria:

- the proposal must be fully supported by relevant transport strategy & planning policy (NTA/DTTaS/An Bord Pleanála approval as required)
- the proposal must have a robust Business Case in line with current Government Public Spending Code & sector specific Common Appraisal Guidance for transport related projects (available from DTTaS website).
- full demand assessment of each scheme using the NTA Transport model is required as an input to the Business Case
- the project must be fully funded by 3rd party finance

While there are no plans that we are aware of currently to reopen the station at Dunleer, or to progress developments which could potentially strengthen such a business case, Iarnród Éireann will engage with any parties proposing such a project, and ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening which meets the criteria set out above in the future.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**





Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council



Irish Rail  
Iarnród Éireann HQ  
Connolly Station  
Amien Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V6V6

1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

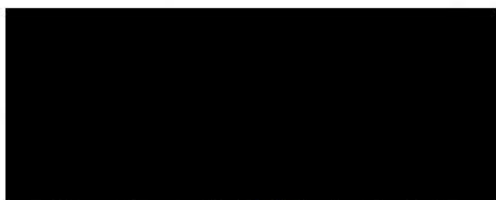
A Chara,

At a recent meeting of the Municipal District of Ardee, the following Motion was passed by members:

"That this council organises meeting to speak with Irish Rail, the Council and Community stakeholders to Discuss the reopening of Dunleer railway station."

I await your response on this matter.

Is mise le meas.



**Meetings Administrator/Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

Comhairle Contae Lú  
Halla an Chontae  
Ionad na Milaoise  
Dún Dealgan  
Contae Lú  
A91 KFW6

Louth County Council  
County Hall  
Millennium Centre  
Dundalk  
County Louth  
A91 KFW6

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Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras Gaeilge - Correspondence in Irish is welcome

██████████ TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

19th December 2019

Dear Deputy ██████████

I refer to your **Parliamentary Question 53881/19** below to Mr. ██████████, T.D., Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport which have been passed to me to respond directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport; Tourism and Sport if Dunleer railway station will be reopened in view of the significant population growth in mid-County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Iarnród Éireann receives many requests for both new greenfield stations and disused stations to be re-opened throughout the network. Ultimately, any new station proposal must meet the following criteria:

- The proposal must be fully supported by relevant transport strategy & planning policy (National Transport Authority/Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport/An Bord Pleanála approval as required).
- The proposal must have a robust Business Case in line with current Government Public Spending Code & sector specific Common Appraisal Guidance for transport related projects (available from DTTAS website).
- Full demand assessment of each scheme using the NTA Transport model is required as an input to the Business Case.
- The project must be fully funded by 3rd party finance.

While there are no plans that we are aware of currently to reopen the station at Dunleer, or to progress developments which could potentially strengthen such a business case, Iarnród Éireann will engage with any parties proposing such a project, and ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening which meets the criteria set out above in the future.

██████████  
**Chief Executive**

██████████ TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

████████████████████  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Deputy ██████████

I refer to your **Parliamentary Question 38771/20** below to Mr. ██████████ T.D., Minister for Transport, which has been passed to me to respond directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to reopen the train station at Dunleer, County Louth; his views on such propositions from a policy perspective; if his Department plans to engage with the NTA and Irish Rail on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Iarnród Éireann receives many requests for both new greenfield stations and disused stations to be re-opened throughout the network. Ultimately, any new station proposal must meet the following criteria:

- The proposal must be fully supported by relevant transport strategy & planning policy (National Transport Authority/Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport/An Bord Pleanála approval as required).
- The proposal must have a robust Business Case in line with current Government Public Spending Code & sector specific Common Appraisal Guidance for transport related projects (available from DTTAS website).
- Full demand assessment of each scheme using the NTA Transport model is required as an input to the Business Case.
- The project must be fully funded by 3rd party finance.

While there are no plans that we are aware of currently to reopen the station at Dunleer, or to progress developments which could potentially strengthen such a business case, Iarnród Éireann will engage with any parties proposing such a project, and ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening which meets the criteria set out above in the future.

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

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Dunleer Train Station  
Date: Monday 23 November 2020 13:59:11

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Dear [REDACTED]

All is good here hope you are well.

I have been advised as below:

***Iarnród Éireann receives many requests for both new greenfield stations and disused stations to be reopened throughout the network. Ultimately, any new station proposal must meet the following criteria:***

- ***The proposal must be fully supported by relevant transport strategy & planning policy (National Transport Authority/Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport/An Bord Pleanála approval as required).***
- ***The proposal must have a robust Business Case in line with current Government Public Spending Code & sector specific Common Appraisal Guidance for transport related projects (available from DTTAS website).***
- ***Full demand assessment of each scheme using the NTA Transport model is required as an input to the Business Case.***
- ***The project must be fully funded by 3rd party finance.***

***While there are no plans that we are aware of currently to reopen the station at Dunleer, or to progress developments which could potentially strengthen such a business case, Iarnród Éireann will engage with any parties proposing such a project, and ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any reopening which meets the criteria set out above in the future.***

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 November 2020 14:40

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Dunleer Train Station

**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.

H [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

We have received a PQ regarding any plans to reopen Dunleer train station. We're proposing that the Minister's reply says 'I am not aware of any decision in relation to the reopening of the station at Dunleer' but we want to make sure that is the case. We don't need any background info just whether there is any plans to reopen. The PQ is for answer next Tuesday, I'd be grateful if you could please come back to me by **lunchtime on Monday**.

Kind Regards,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Sustainable Mobility Investment Policy Division*

**An Roinn Iompair**  
*Department of Transport*  
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.

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

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██████████  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
████████████████████

25th January 2021

Dear Deputy ██████████

I refer to your **Parliamentary Question 1103/21** below to Mr. ██████████ T.D., Minister for Transport, which has been passed to me to respond directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request full feasibility studies to take place on the opening of a much needed train station on the north of Viaduct Drogheda, County Louth and the reopening of Dunleer train station in mid-County Louth in advance of the imminent DART expansion to Drogheda both of which would further decrease the need to use private vehicles in the county and help meet carbon targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

As you can appreciate Iarnród Éireann receives many requests for both new greenfield stations and disused stations to be re-opened throughout the network.

The delivery of any new rail infrastructure necessarily involves a multi-agency approach in the planning, design, funding and construction of a scheme. There are also strict Government enforced conditions in place surrounding the release of funds for capital infrastructure projects which must be adhered to by all agencies wishing to draw down public funds. These are set out under the Public Spending Code drawn up by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

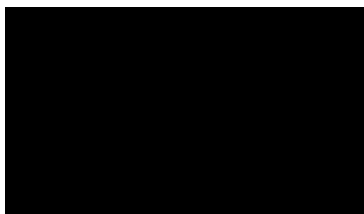
In general, therefore before Iarnród Éireann can receive public funding to proceed with any rail infrastructure scheme the following conditions must be met;

- the proposal must be fully supported by relevant transport strategy & planning policy (National Transport Authority /Department of Transport/An Bord Pleanála approval as required)
- the proposal must have a robust Business Case in line with current Government Public Spending Code & sector specific Common Appraisal Guidance for transport related projects (available from the Department of Transport website)

- full demand assessment of each scheme using the National Transport Authority's Regional Modelling System is required as an input to the Business Case
- the project must be fully funded by 3rd party finance

There are no plans that we are aware of presently to reopen the station at Dunleer or open a station at Drogheda North, or to progress developments which could potentially strengthen such business cases. That said, Iarnród Éireann will engage with any parties proposing such projects. Iarnród Éireann will ensure that no action is undertaken which would preclude any future reopening of the stations, if funded by third parties and which meets the conditions set out above, which apply to all rail infrastructure project proposals.

Yours sincerely,



**Chief Executive**