

Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

T 01 703 4293 E foi@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie



23rd October 2020

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Re: FOI request IE_FOI_409

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 14th October 2020 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received on by my office on the 15th October, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

- History of night time track works since 2017 at Donabate Train Station to include the length of works and number of machines on site.
- Reason for vegetation control which has been done in September
- Reason why the number of trees has been cut in half

Response:

I, [REDACTED], Decision Maker have now made a final decision to grant your request on 23rd October 2020.

You have sought access to the records outlined 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. 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 [REDACTED] or by email at foi@irishrail.ie

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Decision Maker, Infrastructure Management, Iarnród Éireann

Freedom of Information Request:
Schedule of Records for IE_FOI_409 : 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	23.10.2020	IE_FOI_409 Response Document	1	Grant	~	~

Signed

Freedom of Information / Data Protection Executive

IE FOI 409 Response Document

- History of night time track works since 2017 at Donabate Train Station to include the length of works and number of machines on site.

Iarnród Éireann have an ongoing continuous requirement to carry out maintenance work on the railway network, typically at night. Night work is essential as the works, by their nature, cannot progress whilst trains are running. These works include (but not exclusively) placing ballast, packing the track, vegetation management, structures maintenance, etc. The length of time spent on these works is dependent on the track possessions (times when trains are not operational) and on the Dublin to Belfast line these are typically 4 hours on a mid-week night and 6 hours on a Saturday night

To examine all "night time track works history since 2017 at Donabate Train Station to include the length of works and number of machines on site", will take a lot of time and effort, and a search and retrieval fee of approx. €480 will apply. Please notify the FOI department if you wish to pay this fee and proceed.

- Reason for vegetation control which has been done in September

The removal of vegetation in September was required for safety reasons to remove the potential for low rail adhesion, which is linked to leaf fall.

- Reason why the number of trees has been cut in half

Iarnród Éireann try to minimise the amount of vegetation removal to the absolute minimum necessary to maintain a safe railway, hence we lop trees rather than fully remove if at all possible