



5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Re: FOI Request Acknowledgement [IE\_FOI\_055]**

Dear 

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

- **Request - Copies of the replies that Irish Rail forwarded to TDs in respect to Parliamentary Questions that were forwarded to Irish Rail for direct reply. I am looking for the replies for the timeframe of 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016 inclusive.**

I Heidi Reardon, Decision Maker have now made a final decision to grant your request on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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.

Heidi Reardon

**PA to Chief Executive, Iarnrod Eireann**

Freedom of Information Request:  
Schedule of Records for IE\_FO1\_055 : Summary for Decision Making

Record No.	Date of Record Received	Date of Record Returned	From	PQ No	Brief Description	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
19	23.06.16	01.07.16	Danny Healy Rae	PQ524 - Ref 16722	Repair at Minish Level Crossing Killarney	1	Grant		
	16.06.16	Outstanding	Margaret Murphy O' Mahony	PQ204 - Ref 16340	Train stations not accessible by county				
18	15.06.16	29.06.16	James Lawless	PQ583 - Ref 15917	Phoenix Park Tunnel Open & Operational - New Services - New Timetable	1	Grant	S 29	PQ still open
	15.06.16	Outstanding	Eamon O' Cuiv	PQ553 - Ref 15315	Funding for developing software - bilingual output				
17	13.06.16	16.06.16	Tommy Broughan	PQ220 - Ref 15252	Security Trains & Stations near beaches during summer	1	Grant	S 29	PQ still open
16	02.06.16	16.06.16	Mick Wallace	PQ879 - Ref 13390	Railway Lines Wexford - Plans for Expansion of Services and Lines	1	Grant		
15	26.05.16	17.06.16	Sean Crowe	PQ249 - Ref 12417	Bridge Kildangan Co Kildare - Made Safe - Provide Funding	1	Grant		
14	19.05.16	03.06.16	John McGuinness	PQ213 - Ref 11158	Funding to Irish Rail for the use of a lift for passengers wishing to access McDonagh Station in Kilkenny	1	Grant		
13	19.05.16	30.05.16	John McGuinness	PQ212 - Ref 11157	Funding to up-grade Thomastown Railway Station in County Kilkenny as it is in a run-down state	1	Grant		
12	27.04.16	13.05.16	Thomas Broughan	PQ472 - Ref 8016	Details of Penalties Imposed on Public Transport Companies in 2013 to 2015 and to date in 2016	1	Grant		
11	27.04.16	03.06.16	Maureen O' Sullivan	PQ487 - Ref 8342	Noise Control Acoustic Screening - Connolly & East Wall	1	Grant		
10	27.04.16	26.05.16	Fiona O' Loughlin	PQ480 - Ref 8155	No of People Travelling from Kildare to Dublin in March 2016	1	Grant		
9	22.04.16	11.05.16	Richard Boyd Barrett	PQ158 - Ref 7956	Wheelchair users, ramps and booking	1	Grant		
8	14.04.16	03.05.16	Catherine Murphy	PQ864 Ref 7061	Funding allocated to invest in rolling stock over past 10 years	1	Grant		
7	14.04.16	27.04.16	Catherine Murphy	PQ863 - Ref 7060	Funding for more rolling stock	1	Grant		
6	14.04.16	19.04.16	Fergus O'Dowd	PQ855 - Ref 6885	Reopening of Dunleer Station	1	Grant		
5	14.04.16	21.04.16	Thomas Broughan	PQ841 - Ref 6454	04.55 Bray to Howth Service - Carriage Capacity	1	Grant		
4	06.04.16	07.04.16	Brendan Griffin	PQ5759 - Ref 5759	Renaming of Rathmore Station	1	Grant		
3	26.01.16	17.02.16	Timmy Dooley	PQ506 - Ref 3161	Number of park-and-ride car parking spaces at each rail station.	2	Grant		
2	19.01.16	25.01.16	Dessie Ellis	PQ480 - Ref 2229	Waiting area at Newbridge Train Station	1	Grant		
1	15.01.16	25.01.16	Dara Calleary	PQ942 - Ref 1379	Living Wage €11.50 per hour	1	Grant		
0	17.12.15	25.01.16	Jack Wall	PQ716 - Ref 46036	Condition of Railway Bridge - Curragh Naas Co. Kildare	1	Grant		

Signed Heidi Reardon, PA to the Chief Executive, Iamród Éireann

IE Decision Maker

Mr Jack Wall TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21st January 2016

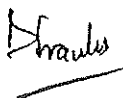
Dear Deputy Wall,

I refer to Dáil Question No. 716 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he or his Department has had representations in regard to major concerns in regard to the present condition of a railway bridge (Iarnród Éireann, Railway bridge at Carragh Naas) in County Kildare which was damaged in 2013 and still not repaired; if there is an insurance issue in having this matter resolved; if his Department has any discussion with Iarnród Éireann or the local authority in having the matter resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

With regard to your query in relation safety concerns around the railway bridge at Carragh, Co. Kildare (UBC49), I can confirm that, while there is some superficial damage to the structure, as a result of a bridge strike by a third party, there is no immediate safety concerns with this bridge. IE are aware of the condition of the bridge and have a thorough inspection regime for this, and all of its structures. Repairs to bridges are carried out on a prioritised basis and relative to the level of funding that is available for this work. While there is no immediate safety concern, the bridge will continue to be monitored on an on-going basis. There are no known insurance issues associated with this structure.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6  
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Mr Dara Calleary  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21st January 2016

Dear Deputy Calleary,

I refer to Dáil Question No. 942 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the discussions his Department has had with suppliers or service contractors to his Department or to agencies of his Department to ensure that employees of such suppliers and contractors are paid the Living Wage of €11.50 per hour; the cost of implementing this wage for these employees; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Our contracts require adherence to national legislative requirements. The Living Wage is voluntary and has no legislative basis and is therefore not a statutory entitlement and cannot be imposed on suppliers or contractors.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks  
**Chief Executive**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
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Mr Dessie Ellis  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

21st January 2016

Dear Deputy Ellis,

I refer to Dáil Question No. 480 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

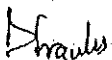
*To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the rationale for the continued closure of the waiting rooms at Newbridge train station, County Kildare, for a number of years, given that it is a very busy station and is regularly used by persons travelling to seek hospital services in the Dublin area.*

The toilets and waiting rooms at Newbridge station were the focus of extensive and ongoing repair a number of years ago, due to the very high number of incidents of vandalism at the station. The repair bill ran into thousands of euro which was unsustainable. We were forced to take the decision to close the facility permanently. I am informed that the cost of reopening the toilets would be prohibitive, in the context of the difficult economic climate that still prevails for Iarnród Éireann.

However, we have made improvements to the service overall that has delivered real benefits to the station, our customers, and the wider community in Newbridge. The fleet that operates the route (serving Newbridge station) is our newest and most modern fleet, the Intercity Railcar (I.C.R.). All these trains have toilets on board for customer comfort. The route has also witnessed an increase in service levels so customers are not waiting very long for their train, and then can use the facility on board while traveling to their destination. Feedback from customers on the route, would support the fact that they think this approach is far better for them, and are supportive of the developments we've made.

I recognise that you are in favour of providing toilet facilities at Newbridge station, and I thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. However for the reasons outlined above, we have no plans at this time to allocate limited funding to it.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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Mr Timmy Dooley TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Deputy Dooley,

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 506 - Ref 3161** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of park-and-ride car parking spaces at each rail station.**

Please see attached details as requested.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

Station	Parking Spaces
Adamstown Station	200
Ardrahan Station	53
Arklow Station	125
Ashtown Station	0
Athens Station	202
Athlone Station	104
Altham Station	97
Attymon Station	8
Bagnalstown Station	47
Balbriggan Station	98
Ballina Station	22
Ballinasloe Station	112
Ballybrophy Station	25
Ballyhaunis Station	20
Ballymote Station	30
Banteer Station	18
Bayside Station	9
Birdhill Station	10
Blackrock Station	
Boolestown Station	108
Boyle Station	60
Bray Station	112
Broombridge Station	0
Cahir Station	6
Carlow Station	148
Carrick-on-Shannon Station	20
Carrick-on-Suir Station	8
Carrigrohane Station	0
Carrigrohane Station	183
Castlebar Station	117
Castleconnell Station	10
Castleknock Station	0
Castlerea Station	34
Ceannt Station (Galway)	182
Charleville Station	430
Charleville Station	47
Clara Station	34
Claremorris Station	30
Clondalkin Fonthill Station	150
Clongriffin Station	400
Clonmel Station	12
Clonsilla Station	0
Clontarf Road Station	105
Cloughjordan Station	20
Cobh Station	0
Collooney Station	54
Connolly Station	248
Coolmine Station	185
Craughwell Station	120
Dalkey station	55
Docklands Station	0
Donabale Station	351
Drogheda Station	386
Dromod Station	30
Drumcondra Station	0
Dublin Pearse Station	0
Dun Laoghaire (Mallin) Station	0
Dunboyne	
Dundalk Station	254
Edgeworthstown Station	67
Enfield	156
Ennis Station	168
Enniscorthy Station	15
Farranfore Station	18
Fota Station	0
Foxford Station	25
Glenageary Station	0
Glounthane Station	80
Gorey Station	152
Gormanston Station	116
Gort Station	120
Grand Canal Dock Station	0
Greystones Station	400

Station	Parking Spaces
Hansfield Station	0
Harmonstown Station	0
Hazelhatch Station	250
Heuston station	405
Howth Station	10
Howth Junction and Donaghmede Station	0
Kent Station	535
Kilbarrack Station	0
Kilcock Station	0
Kilcoole Station	15
Kildare Station	281
Kilkenny Station	142
Killarney Station	104
Killester Station	43
Killiney Station	4
Lansdowne Road Station	0
Laytown Station	24
Leixlip Convey Station	30
Leixlip Louisa Bridge Station	312
Limerick (Colbert) Station	300
Limerick Junction	288
Little Island	89
Longford Station	31
M3 Parkway Station	1,200
Malahide Station	86
Mallow Station	460
Mallow Station	410
Manulla Junction Station	0
Maynooth Station	165
Midleton Station	283
Millstreet Station	35
Monasterevin Station	44
Mullingar Station	161
Navan Road Parkway Station	103
Nenagh Station	161
Newbridge Station	469
Oranmore Station	120
Park West and Cherry Orchard Station	0
Portlinton Station	509
Portlaoise station	98
Portmarnock Station	283
Raheny Station	0
Rathdrum Station	21
Rathmore Station	29
Roscommon Station	25
Roscrea Station	19
Rosslare Europort Station	15
Rosslare Strand Station	10
Rosslare Station	17
Rush & Lusk	432
Rushbrooke Station	0
Sallins Train Station	181
Salthill and Monkslow Station	100
Sandycove and Glashule Station	0
Sandymount Station	0
Seapoint Station	0
Shankill Station	100
Sixmilebridge Station	83
Skerries Station	125
Sligo Station	45
Sutton Station	101
Sydney Parade Station	0
Tara Street Station	0
Templemore Station	107
Thomastown Station	20
Thurles Station	175
Tipperary Station	8
Tralee station	113
Tullamore station	404
Waterford Station	152
Westport Station	48
Wexford (O Hanrahan) Station	5
Wicklow Station	81
Woodlawn Station	60

Brendan Griffin TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Deputy Griffin,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 5759 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to re-name Rathmore Railway Station in County Kerry after Patrick O'Connor, a local Volunteer, who lost his life fighting for Irish freedom in Moore Street during Easter Week 1916; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

It is the policy of Iarnród Éireann that stations are named according to the location they serve, and that they should not be named after individuals or events. This is best practice in transport in providing clear information to all customers relating to the areas served.

The sole exception to this was the decision by the State in 1966 to rename fifteen stations after the sixteen executed leaders of the Easter Rising, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Rising. In this instance, the geographic location is primary in the station name (e.g Cork (Kent)), with the exception of Dublin stations where the names (Pearse, Connolly and Heuston) serve to differentiate the stations.

I regret that we would not therefore support any further renaming of stations on our network in the interest of clarity of information to customers, and I hope the municipal district would understand this.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**



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Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Brendan Griffin TD

Dáil Éireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Deputy Griffin,

Thank you for your email of 5th May in relation to Rathmore Station.

While I appreciate your wish to commemorate Patrick O'Connor locally, I would reiterate that it is best practice to ensure that station information and particularly naming is as clear as possible.

You will appreciate that across the country there are many areas which celebrate and remember the contribution of men and women from their community to the Rising, and indeed to many other historic events. Should we move away from our policy in Rathmore, we would establish a precedent which would ultimately result in lobbying for many stations to be renamed.

Quite apart from the obvious issues of clarity involved, there would be significant cost also in renaming stations, and in placing new signage, information and other requirements right around the country.

The decision to rename a limited number of stations in 1966 was designed to be a permanent tribute to the leaders of the Rising, and was specifically limited to those leaders of the Rising who were executed for their role as leaders.

It remains our view that we will continue to limit renaming to this select group for the reasons I have stated. I trust you understand our position on this, and have no doubt that the community of Rathmore and others across the country will find appropriate means to remember the roles members of their community played in the events of 1916, and in other historic moments in Irish history which will be celebrated in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

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Thomas Broughan TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Deputy Broughan,

I refer to Dáil Question No. 841 Ref No 65454/16 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

*To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to contact the Chief Executive Officer of Iarnród Éireann to increase the number of carriages from 4 to 6 on the 4.55 pm Bray to Howth Dublin Area Rapid Transport service or to implement other measures to end overcrowding on the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

I am happy to advise that Iarnród Éireann have introduced additional fleet which came into operation on the 11th April 2016. This significantly increases the capacity on our current DART services by way of maximising existing train sizes. This capacity enhancement has seen large increases in capacity in both the morning & evening peak periods which sees total capacity increases of 15% resulting in the largest operational fleet of carriages in operation since the implementation of the DART service in 1984 & I can advise that the 16.55hrs service from Bray to Howth has been increased to a 6 Car DART.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Fergus O' Dowd TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

18<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

I refer to Dáil Question No. 855 Ref No 6885/16 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the status of the re-opening of Dunleer Railway Station in County Louth; 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,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Ms Catherine Murphy

Dail Éireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2

25<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Deputy Murphy,

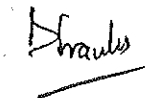
I refer to **Parliamentary Question 863 - Ref 7060/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

***To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide funding for more rolling stock on the overcrowded commuter lines servicing Counties Kildare and Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

The Iarnród Éireann operational fleet is fully deployed on scheduled services. Trains are taken out for planned and unplanned maintenance however the aim is to meet demand for scheduled services and in all but exceptional cases these are met.

In the case of Commuter services, capacity includes both sitting and standing as is the norm in urban rail networks internationally. The availability of rolling stock versus maintenance holdings is closely tracked and confirms to the industry norms in this regard. Iarnród Éireann are undertaking a capacity review currently to understand and plan for future growth recognising the upturn in the economy that has increased our passenger numbers.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

Ms Catherine Murphy  
Dail Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

Deputy Murphy,

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 864 - Ref 7061/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the funding allocated to invest in rolling stock over the past ten years; the service lines this has been applied to; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Answered by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport**

**Paschal Donohoe**

**REPLY**

Over the past ten years my Department has invested €600m in railway rolling stock. This investment provided 200 Inter-City Railcars and 33 Intercity Diesel Multiple Units. The deployment of rolling stock is an operational matter for Iarnród Éireann so I have, therefore, referred the Deputy's question to the company for direct reply. Please advise my private office if you don't receive a reply within 10 working days.

Ref No: 7061/16

This Rolling Stock has been deployed across all our routes-Commuter (Northern/Maynooth/Kildare) and Intercity (Dublin-Belfast, Dublin-Sligo, Dublin-Waterford, Dublin-Rosslare, Dublin-Cork, Dublin-Tralee, Dublin-Limerick, Dublin-Galway, Dublin-Westport). This allocation supports our service offering as per the current timetable.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Mr Richard Boyd Barrett, T.D.,  
Dail Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your Dáil question no. 158 to Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, which, has been forwarded to me for attention and direct reply.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss with Dublin Area Rapid Transport services how wheelchair users can be facilitated better so that there is someone there to put the ramp in place when a wheelchair user has made a booking.**

Accessibility is important to Iarnród Éireann and we meet frequently with all representative user groups including the Irish Wheelchair association and CRC to ensure that information is available to their members to make it easier to plan their travel and use our services. We have recently updated and re-issued our Guide for Rail Passengers with Disabilities and this has been distributed to all relevant groups.

Wheelchair users are requested to give 24-hours' notice of their intended journey where possible. However, we will endeavor to provide assistance at shorter notice if possible.

We have identified DART stations which have seen increased numbers of passengers requiring assistance, and are prioritising staffing at these stations. This will help us to further improve the service we provide

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Ms. Fiona O'Loughlin, T.D.,  
Dail Éireann,  
Leinster House, Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

25<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your Dáil Question No. 480, Ref No 8155 to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, which, has been forwarded to me for attention and direct reply.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of persons who travelled from County Kildare to County Dublin by train, on each working day in March 2016, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The table below shows the number of persons who travelled from Co. Kildare to Dublin on each working day in March 2016:

Calendar day		Number of Tickets
01/03/2016	Tue	8,243
02/03/2016	Wed	7,947
03/03/2016	Thu	8,128
04/03/2016	Fri	7,912
07/03/2016	Mon	8,440
08/03/2016	Tue	8,151
09/03/2016	Wed	8,097
10/03/2016	Thu	8,205
11/03/2016	Fri	8,074
14/03/2016	Mon	7,627
15/03/2016	Tue	7,489
16/03/2016	Wed	7,804
18/03/2016	Fri	6,914
21/03/2016	Mon	7,364
22/03/2016	Tue	7,332
23/03/2016	Wed	7,347
24/03/2016	Thu	7,473
29/03/2016	Tue	8,228
30/03/2016	Wed	8,001
31/03/2016	Thu	8,171
		156,946

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Maureen O' Sullivan

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

2nd June 2016

Dear Deputy O' Sullivan,

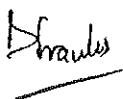
I refer to Dáil Question No. 487 Ref No 8342/16 below which has been passed to me for direct response. At the outset please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this question.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will consider providing funding for noise control, or possibly to consider systems used in other countries, such as the acoustic screening of railway lines in Denmark to accommodate residents on the extremely busy stretch of railway track between Connolly station and East Wall road bridge.**

We currently have no plans or funding to consider the installation of acoustic screens / barrier type system adjacent to the railway at East Wall or indeed any other location on the Iarnród Éireann network. There are many local interest groups and residents who are effectively neighbours of the live railway and we are regularly in receipt of such requests, however, in the absence of the considerable level of funding that would be required, unfortunately, I am not in a position to consider this request.

We did cut back extensive vegetation in the East Wall area for the purposes of inspecting a land bank and I can confirm that this vegetation will be restored as we have engaged the services of a professional landscaper and this has been communicated directly to the residents of East Wall through our community liaison officer.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**



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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Thomas Broughan TD

Dáil Éireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Deputy Broughan,

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 472 - Ref 8016/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the details of any penalties imposed on public transport companies in the years 2013 to 2015 and to date in 2016; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deductions were made by the National Transport Authority from Iarnród Éireann subvention in the time period mentioned as follows;

Year	Penalty
2013	€0
2014	€494,304.49 (for strike action on 24.08.2014 and 25.08.2014)
2015	€119,449.47 (for strike action on 23.10.2015 between 06.00 and 09.00)
2016 YTD	€0

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Mr. John Mc Guinness TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

D02 TD30

30<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Deputy Mc Guinness,

I refer to your Dáil question no. 212 Ref No. 11157/16 to Mr. Shane Ross T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, which, has been forwarded to me for attention and direct reply.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide funding to up-grade Thomastown Railway Station in County Kilkenny as it is in a run-down state; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The railway station at Thomastown in County Kilkenny is one of almost 150 stations on the Iarnród Éireann network. It is maintained to a safe functional standard by the Iarnród Éireann Infrastructure department. In light of restricted funding levels available to Irish Rail in recent years, there are no monies available for any significant station enhancements beyond that required to maintain them to a safe operational standard. To that end, repair works are currently being undertaken to a small shelter roof at Thomastown, which was damaged in storms during the winter.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

Chief Executive

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
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John Mc Guinness TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Deputy Mc Guinness,

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 213 - Ref 11158/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide funding to Irish Rail for the use of a lift for passengers wishing to access McDonagh Station in Kilkenny; and his views that although this lift has been provided Irish Rail will not pay the cost of operating it and therefore the elderly and infirm are faced with a steep climb by foot to access the platform.**

The lift was installed by the McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre developer assuming that at some time there would be an accessibility demand from the city as well as from the proposed then shopping centre and hotel developments. The hotel development has not progressed and therefore the lift has not been commissioned.

In the meantime our station in Kilkenny remains fully accessible.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

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

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

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Sean Crowe TD

Dail Eireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

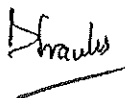
Dear Deputy Crowe,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 249 Ref No 12417 below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if the bridge in Kildangan, in County Kildare can be made safe; and if he will provide funding for this, given that the bridge is traversed by children and parents daily and there is no footpath..**

The provision of footpaths at this bridge is a matter for Kildare County Council and should be referred to them. It is noted that, due to the narrow width of the bridge, the introduction of footpaths and further reduction in road space would likely require the introduction of single lane traffic and traffic lights – again, this is for the local authority to consider. It is further noted that planning permissions have been granted by Kildare County Council for housing on both sides of this bridge over recent years without any provisions for footpaths.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

**Chief Executive**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6  
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Mick Wallace TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Deputy Wallace,

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 879 - Ref 13390/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans for railway lines in County Wexford; and his proposed plans for expansion of railway services and railway lines.**

The infrastructure enhancement budget allocated to the railway is limited and therefore is allocated to high priority projects that will deliver enhanced services and customer benefits. The passenger demand in the Wexford area is significantly less than in other areas of the country and therefore enhancement investment is not justified at this time. However, Iarnród Éireann continuously monitor demands and needs of the community to identify potential enhancement opportunities.

With regard to services in the Wexford area, currently Iarnród Éireann operate 5 services from Connolly Station which serve Wexford on Weekdays & 3 on Sundays, there are 4 services from Wexford to Connolly Station Weekdays & 3 on Sundays. It is not proposed to increase or reduce this level of service in the short to medium term unless passenger or economic circumstances dictate otherwise.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks  
**Chief Executive**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaille, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6  
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Thomas P. Broughan TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Deputy Broughan,


I refer to **Parliamentary Question 220 - Ref 15252/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will seek assurances from the Chief Executive Officer of Iarnród Éireann, that extra security will be provided during good weather periods, throughout the summer, at train stations and on Dublin Area Rapid Transport, especially ones near beaches; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

I can confirm that Iarnród Éireann will bolster the level of security coverage across the Dart and Commuter network during the summer months as we have done in previous years. This additional coverage will result in an increase in the level of security presence at stations during this period.

In addition, we will be in liaison with Gardai and other public transport providers for crowd control, and to prevent anti-social behaviour.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks  
**Chief Executive**

Príomh Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6  
Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6  
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James Lawless TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

28<sup>th</sup> June 2016

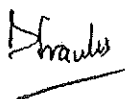
Dear Deputy Lawless

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 583 - Ref 15917/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport when the Phoenix Park tunnel link on the Kildare rail line will open and be operational; the new services to be provided including a late evening option; when a new timetable will be available; if the service for passengers continuing to travel to Heuston Station rather than onwards through the tunnel will be reduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

It is planned to commence operation of Passenger Services through the Phoenix Park Tunnel in the last quarter of 2016, in advance of finalising the service plan, as is the case with all new timetable proposals, a period of public consultation will take place to obtain customer feedback on an initial draft proposal. It is planned to carry out this consultation process towards the end of the summer period 2016.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks  
**Chief Executive**

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

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Danny Healy - Rae TD

Dáil Éireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2.

1<sup>st</sup> July 2016

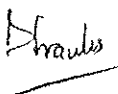
Dear Deputy Healy - Rae

I refer to **Parliamentary Question 524 - Ref 16722/16** below which has been passed to me to respond to you directly.

**To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide funding to repair the railway crossing at Minish in Killarney, County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The road upgrades at Minish Level Crossing is a matter for the Local Authority. Iarnród Éireann will facilitate the undertaking of upgrade works and have discussed this with them. It is our understanding that it is planned to carry out works in 2016, however the specific plan and dates should be obtained from the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

Chief Executive