

From: Brennan, Martin

Sent: 21 December 2020 08:59

To: Edwards, Kirsty

Cc: McGuinness, Jeff

Kelly, Roisin

Rice, Emer

Deehan, Terry

Anderson, Susan (DfI)

Subject: NDNA Unique Circumstances fund - bids

Kirsty

See attached forms for DfI's return for the NDNA Unique Circumstances fund.

Apologies for delay - summary below.

	2021-22 £000	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000	2024-25 £000	TOTAL £000
d. Translink – Enhanced Rail Services for the North West	698	711	725	738	2,872

Regards

Martin

DEPARTMENT	Dfi
TITLE	Translink – Enhanced Rail Services for the North West

£000's

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Funding required	698	711	725	738

Narrative

This bid is for enhancement of rail services including:

- i. an hourly Derry –Coleraine frequency on a Sunday;
- ii. an additional early morning service from Derry to Belfast connecting with the 08.00hrs Enterprise service to Dublin; and
- iii. an additional later night Saturday service from Belfast arriving in Derry at 0:44 hours.

The proposal for enhanced services followed engagement with Into the West (ITW), local political representatives and Derry City and Strabane District Council on local priorities for enhancing rail connectivity to the North West and followed on from the soft opening of the North West Multi-Modal Transport Hub.

Improved rail connectivity between Derry and the rest of the Island has been a priority for Council, local business groups and ITW for some time and reflects their concerns about the current position.

This enhanced services are specifically aimed at tackling deprivation and improving opportunity as well as removing barriers to bring people together.

From: Kelly, Roisin

Sent: 19 October 2021 14:28

To: Anderson, Susan (DfI) [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Committee Question - Unique Circumstances, response from DoF

Hi Susan

Jeff has advised that there was no notification from NIO that he is aware of.

[REDACTED]

Thanks

Roisin

[REDACTED]

From: Anderson, Susan (DfI)

Sent: 18 October 2021 17:31

To: Kelly, Roisin [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Committee Question - Unique Circumstances, response from DoF

Hi Roisin

Is there a step missing in that Departments should have been advised which bids were successful and which weren't? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks

Susan

From: Anderson, Susan (DfI) [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 18 Oct 2021, 4:49 pm
To: Kelly, Roisin [REDACTED]
Cc: McAllister, Bronagh [REDACTED], Brennan, Martin [REDACTED], Palmer, Kristina [REDACTED], Armstrong, Barry [REDACTED], Mack, Kerry [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Committee Question - Unique Circumstances, response from DoF

Roisin

Is there any update on this? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks

Susan

From: Mack, Kerry
Sent: 14 October 2021 08:39
To: Kelly, Roisin [REDACTED]
Cc: McAllister, Bronagh [REDACTED], Brennan, Martin [REDACTED], Palmer, Kristina [REDACTED], Armstrong, Barry [REDACTED], Anderson, Susan (DfI) [REDACTED]

Subject: Committee Question - Unique Circumstances, response from DoF

Roisin,

Just following up on the email trail below.

The emails below refer to the DfI Unique Circumstances bids being unsuccessful, however as far as we are aware nothing formal has issued advising of this. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Would you be able to advise?

Many thanks and happy to discuss

Kerry Mack

Financial Planning and Management Branch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Mr Steve Bradley
steve@stevebradley.info

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: XXXX
Our reference: CORR-1944-2021
5 January 2022

Dear Mr Bradley,

ADDRESSING THE EAST-WEST DISPARITY IN SERVICES ON DERRY-BELFAST RAIL LINE

Thank you for your email dated 20 November 2021 in which you have asked for clarity surrounding the above issue.

As you are aware, I am very ambitious for our rail network and am keen to see progress made on improving and expanding the rail network across the North and the rest of our island. I believe that rail has huge untapped potential to deliver multiple benefits across Ireland and I am committed to addressing regional imbalance by improving connectivity to the North West area. As you will be aware, I have commissioned a feasibility study to get Phase 3 of the Coleraine to Derry project back on track. I have also commissioned additional studies to explore the possibility of a half hourly service from Derry to Belfast as well as providing additional halts at Ballykelly, Strathfoyle and City of Derry Airport/Eglinton.

I can confirm that following our meeting on 16 June 2020, I requested that officials explore options to enhance services on the Belfast – Derry Line. In line with this, Translink submitted costed outline proposals for the enhancement of services including:

- i. an hourly Derry –Coleraine frequency on a Sunday;
- ii. an additional early morning service from Derry to Belfast connecting with the 08.00hrs Enterprise service to Dublin; and
- iii. an additional later night Saturday service from Belfast arriving in Derry at 0:44 hours

While these additional services were costed and a bid was submitted to the Department of Finance, funding has not been made available to extend this service. In fact, the impact of COVID-19 on our passenger numbers is likely to add to any cost to extending services given that fare revenue continues to be suppressed.

Furthermore, my recent bid for Translink funding during the October monitoring round was also unsuccessful. Funding for our public transport services remains challenging in

the face of COVID. As a result of the outcome of October monitoring, Translink is projecting large losses for the current financial year however I will continue to press the Finance Minister and Executive colleagues to provide the funding required to allow the Department to extend rail services to the North West. I hope to continue to work with you and other stakeholders to continue to seek funding for our public transport network from the Executive, especially given the clear role of public transport in helping to address the climate emergency alongside support for many of the Executive's other priorities including health, education and the economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mallon', written in a cursive style.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure