



An Roinn Iompair  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport



Oifig an Aire  
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Mr Gerald Hurley  
CEO Waterford Chamber  
2 George's St.  
Waterford

Dear Mr Hurley

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

I am aware that Iarnród Éireann management and trade unions are currently engaged in a Labour Court-led process relating to pay within the Company. It's important to note that this process is on-going and issues relating to pay are a matter for the Company.

In relation to the rail network generally, my Department's Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport (available to view on [www.dttas.ie](http://www.dttas.ie)) recommended the development of a new rail policy following a wide-ranging public consultation. So, in November 2016, the National Transport Authority (NTA) launched a public consultation with the publication of the Rail Review Report 2016 and associated documents. These documents are all available to view on the NTA's website, [www.nationaltransport.ie](http://www.nationaltransport.ie).

The purpose of this consultation was to open up a public discussion on the role of rail in Ireland, its funding and to provide factual material to inform the debate. Following a period of stakeholder engagement, the public consultation closed in January 2017 and the NTA is now preparing a report on the submissions received.

Separate to the above, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government is, on behalf of the Government, leading the development of a new National Planning Framework. This will be a high-level, whole-of-Government document that will provide the Framework for future development and investment in Ireland. It is obvious that, once agreed by Government, the

approach which that Framework adopts toward land-use planning and settlement patterns for the country will have significant impacts on the potential of rail and other transport infrastructure and services into the future. It is proposed to await the finalisation of the National Planning Framework before preparing a final report on the rail review and recommendations relating to the rail network.

Thank you for your interest in this matter, and I trust that this clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane Ross', with a horizontal line underneath.

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Minister Shane Ross  
Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015  
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