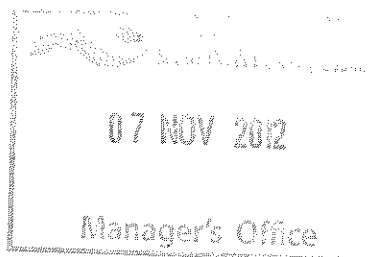


Ms. Emer O'Gorman, Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Town Centre,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



5th November 2012

Re: Motion Passed at Meeting of 8th October 2012

Dear Ms. O'Gorman,

I refer to your letter to the Authority dated 10th October 2012 and your letter to Minister Varadkar on the same date. Your letter to the Minister has been forwarded to the Authority for direct reply.

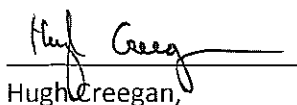
Irish Rail have previously examined the possible use of the Phoenix Park tunnel for the running of commuter services from the Kildare line and concluded that it would not be feasible to operate such services for a number of reasons. Irish Rail advised that some of the key issues militating against this proposal include:

- Significant capacity constraints on the rail network through the city centre area, focused particularly on restrictions at Connolly Station;
- Issues at Heuston Station relating to the remote distance of platforms for such a service from the main concourse area (close to one kilometre); and
- In the alternative of using the existing main concourse platforms, issues arising from the manoeuvring required to allow train entry to the tunnel.

For all of these reasons, Irish Rail has advised that the running of such services through the Phoenix Park tunnel is not feasible at present.

This issue was further examined as part of the Railway Order statutory process for the DART Underground project and considered during the Oral Hearing held by An Bord Planala in relation to that scheme.

Yours sincerely,


Hugh Creegan,

Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation.