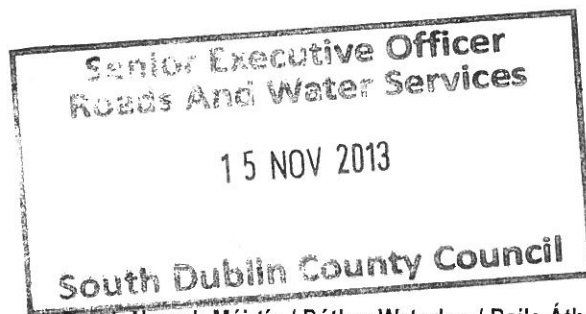


Mr. John McLoughlin  
Senior Engineer  
South Dublin County Council  
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Dáta | Date 13 November 2013

Ár dTag. | Our Ref. NRA13 88995

Bhur dTag. | Your Ref.

**Re: Opening of Esker Lane left only on N4**

**Dear Mr McLoughlin**

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 October 2013 regarding the above.

From the Authority's perspective, the N4 is an important national route. It is the key-connecting corridor linking the Dublin with the Gateway Cities of Mullingar, Athlone, Galway and Sligo. The route therefore carries significant levels of traffic at a higher level than the national average. The majority of this traffic is long distance traffic – again reflective of the function that the route is meant to perform. In this regard the Authority wishes to ensure in so far as practicable, the preservation of the efficiency, capacity and safety of national roads network in this area.

As the Council is aware, the Roads Act provides that overall responsibility for the planning and supervision of works for the construction and maintenance of national routes lies with the National Roads Authority. In view of this responsibility, the Authority has examined the petition by the Esker Lane Residents to reopen Esker Lane onto the N4 between the Ballydowd junction (Exit 3) and the Newcastle Road Junction (Exit 4).

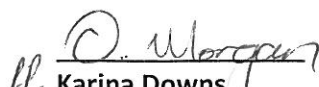
The Authority considers that it would be subject to the appropriate statutory procedure necessary to give effect to such a reopening, either the Part 8 procedure or by way of application to An Bord Pleanála under the EIA process. This would mean development of a new scheme to provide for access from Esker Lane to the N4 National Primary route.

In the opinion of Authority, the proposal to reopen access to the N4 national primary route would seriously affect on the efficiency, carrying capacity and safety of the recently improved N4 national primary route and contravene materially national policy as stated in the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government's Spatial Planning and National Roads (Jan.2012). Therefore the Authority will not support any such proposal. The Authority will use all means at their disposal to preserve the safety and capacity of the route and significant investment which had already been made.

The Local Authority should also take into consideration current EU proposals for the Trans-European Route Network (TEN-T). These proposals may impact the status of this route into the future.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

  
Karina Downs  
Senior Project Manager