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Roads Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

**Senior Executive Officer
Land Use Planning & Transportation**

13 FEB 2015

South Dublin County Council

11 February 2015

Re: Reopening of Phoenix Park Rail Tunnel and Kishogue Rail Station

Dear Mr. Curtin,

Thank you for your letter of 28th January enquiring about the current status of the proposed reopening of the Phoenix Park Rail Tunnel and Kishogue rail station. I would like to bring you up to date with regard to both issues.

Phoenix Park Tunnel

The Phoenix Park Tunnel Project involves reopening this rail link for scheduled passenger services. The planned commuter services would operate between Grand Canal Dock in the city-centre and stations on the Kildare Line. This will allow commuters on the Kildare Line to access the city-centre directly without the need for interchange at Heuston station.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has previously carried out a preliminary appraisal of the Phoenix Park Tunnel Project which provided a positive outlook on the feasibility of the project. The Integrated Implementation Plan (2013-2018) published by the NTA includes the development of the Phoenix Park Tunnel Project as a key objective.

The NTA and IÉ have currently engaged a consultant to examine the Business Case for the project. The Business Case is currently at an advanced stage. The analysis involves the use of the NTA transportation model to assess future service levels and potential demand. The exact number and stopping pattern of new services including phasing has yet to be finalised. There is ultimately potential for up to 4 trains per hour in the peak hour to use the Phoenix Park Tunnel to access the city centre, subject to demand.

The timeline for delivery, subject to board and funding approval, is to commence works in Spring 2015 and complete in Summer 2016. The actual commencement of new services on the route is contingent on the commissioning of the new turn back facility at Grand Canal Dock which is being delivered as part of the ongoing City Centre Resignalling project.



Kishogue Station

I wish to advise you of a number of recent developments in relation to the opening of the railway station at Kishogue.

In 2014 CIÉ / IÉ applied to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for an extension of time in relation to S.I. No 596/2006 – Kildare Route Project Railway Order 2006 which was due to expire at the end of January 2014. This is to maintain the powers to facilitate the construction of a car park to service the station and to build the necessary road infrastructure. CIÉ / IÉ has initiated the process to acquire the lands which are contained in the Railway Order for a car park at Kishogue Station. The application for an extension of time for the Railway Order has been necessitated due to circumstances which are outside the control of CIÉ / IÉ. In June 2014 ABP granted a 3 year extension of the Railway Order to construct a car park and the necessary supporting road infrastructure to service the station.

Due to the severe economic downturn there is considerable pressure on the capital funding programme for infrastructure projects. The opening of the new station is dependent on funding availability to complete the remaining works required. IÉ has not received funding in our 2015 Capital Programme to complete the necessary works. Without committed funding I am unfortunately not in a position to advise of a timeline for the completion of the necessary supporting road infrastructure and parking facilities.

Yours sincerely,



David Franks

Chief Executive