

09 DEC 2005

Ms. Ursula Donnellan
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Town Centre
Tallaght
Dublin 24

St. Martin's House / Waterloo Road / Dublin 4
Tel: +353 1 660 2511 / Fax: +353 1 668 0009

| Date 7th December 2005

| Our Ref.

| Your Ref.

Dear Ms. Donnellan,

I refer to your letter dated 18th October 2005 regarding motions passed by South Dublin County Council at its meeting held on 10th October, 2005 in relation to the Westlink Toll Bridge.

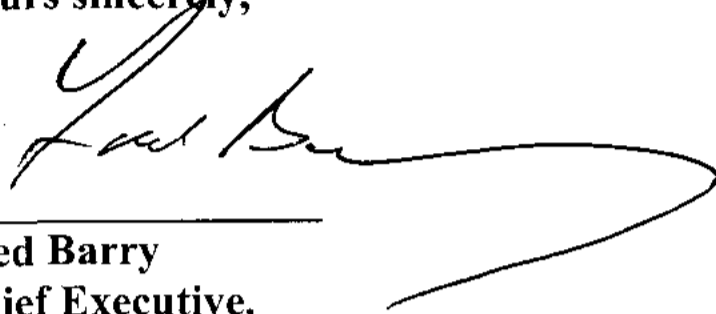
I can confirm that the NRA is currently exploring a number of options in relation to the existing Westlink Toll Bridge Agreement. Furthermore, South Dublin County Council will be aware that the M50 Motorway Upgrade scheme, which has been approved by An Bord Pleanála, has been developed on the basis of a phased progression to a fully-free flow electronic toll collection system. By this it is meant that road users would meet no barriers at West-link and would pass through at standard motorway speed. For electronic tag holders, their account would be deducted the toll fee. It is envisaged that users without electronic tags would be able to make payments by means of telephone/internet/post.

The timing of the move to barrier free tolling will depend on the outcome of negotiations currently underway between the NRA and NTR. ✓

In relation to the second motion passed by South Dublin County Council you should be aware that the service obligations pertaining to the West-Link Toll Bridge agreement concluded between the then Dublin County Council and West-Link Toll Bridge Limited in 1987 are in no way as developed or comprehensive as those set out in current PPP Contracts. In particular the contract does not provide appropriate performance criteria relating to level of service at the toll plaza. Accordingly, were the NRA does not have the authority to direct the Toll Company to lift the barriers as suggested in the Council's motion.

In concluding I wish to confirm to you that the Authority shares the Council's concerns in relation to the need to address the inadequacy of the current tolling arrangements at Westlink. I would be very willing to meet with a delegation from the Council following the conclusion of our negotiations with NTR.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Barry', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Fred Barry
Chief Executive.