

To Whom It May Concern

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New Derry/Londonderry Train Station – Availability for Cross Border Services for Private operators.

Approximately €23.5 million worth of funding from the EU's INTERREG VA Programme has been secured for the creation of a new Multimodal Transport Hub for the North-West that will increase the number of people using public transport for cross-border travel. The project will involve the refurbishment of the existing Waterside Station into a new Multimodal Hub with a new train terminus. The Hub will also contain three new bus stands, a 'park and ride' facility, and a passenger waiting area, retail units and a community space.

The programme has been designed to improve connectivity in the North-West through the development of coordinated cross-border bus and rail services operating between Derry and Ballybofey, Carndonagh, Greencastle and Letterkenny, as well as private services operating between Derry and Cockhili, Greencastle, Moville, Buncrana and Galway. Construction work at the Hub commenced in September 2018, with a completion date of December 2020.

The Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) is the Lead Partner for the delivery of the programme alongside a number of other project partners including Translink, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Sustrans, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and Donegal County Council.

With the aim of an inclusive approach, provision of bus services at the Hub are to be made available to services operating under a valid operator/service licence including, where applicable, a valid commercial bus service permit.

Where possible, provision of bus services at the Hub will be made available to private coach service providers operating under the terms of an international bus operator's licence and cross border authorisation, to the areas outlined above. However, operators will only be able to pick up/drop off at the Hub and there will no layover time allowed.

The Department is now inviting expressions of interest in using the new bus facility. If you wish to be considered please forward your company details and proposed timetable to me by 15/03/2019.

Yours sincerely

Billy McLarnon