



May 8th 2020

Minister of State John Halligan TD
Department of Education & Skills
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 RC96

RE: School Transport System

Dear Minister,

You will perhaps now be considering me to be somewhat of a nuisance but on this this occasion I wish to offer you a solution!

There is a strange anomaly regarding the age at which Bus Eireann has decided to retire drivers of school buses. They have insisted that drivers over 70 years of age cannot be used to drive school buses whilst these same drivers and up to the age of 75 years can, subject to Doctors Certification drive buses for any other use, including, international driving!

There will be a major problem when we start to lift the restrictions due to this awful Covid 19 Pandemic and we open our schools, hopefully, next September. You will know of course that we may still have distancing protocols in place requiring us to reduce the number of passengers on buses and coaches. This may require us to provide more buses and consequently more drivers. We do not have enough fully trained professional drivers in Ireland to meet this new demand and I suggest that Bus Eireann lift this embargo on drivers over the age of 70 driving school buses. This does not apply to any other driver for any other use or to any other jurisdiction in the EU!

I have written to you on this before but the circumstances have changed so dramatically that I believe we should revisit this. I am bringing this to your attention now Minister as we may have to have a revision of the Driver CPC courses, also the logistics around procurement of Doctors Certification, and I need the time between now and September to do this and ensure the safety of the children.

I will appreciate your valued advices

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dunne", is written over a horizontal line.

John Dunne
Director FOTO / ibus plc.



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