

John Dunne

From: John Dunne
Sent: 24 August 2020 12:42
To: norma.foley@oireachtas.ie
Cc: Minister@education.gov.ie; school.transport@education.gov.ie
Subject: School Transport Solutions

Dear Minister,

Good Afternoon. I note I have not received any response from your good-self or your Department to my query below and I respectfully remind you of the urgency as parents seek transport solutions to bring their children to school.

It would seem that your officials are determined to exclude any solution that might involve private bus and coach operators to the extent that they are prepared to increase the use of cars to bring children to school rather than take up my suggestion that my members can provide bus and coach services directly. It seemed odd indeed that this proposal from your Department issued within hours of my issuing this suggestion to over 1,500 bus and coach operators! Apart from the obvious "green" implications of having 1,000's of extra cars on the roads to ensure private bus and coach operators are excluded from providing solutions where the State companies cannot, there is the further risk now being created where these cars accumulate at schools across the country from a road safety point of view and further, a Covid 19 increased exposure risk.

I respectfully suggest that you re-consider this ill thought out proposal by your Department and allow the supports to parents for the use of their private cars as announced by you to be directed to pay in part and support the provision of private bus and coach services. We must allow reason and logic to prevail here over the inability of your Department or unwillingness to look past the State companies to provide solutions or these services.

Yours Sincerely

John Dunne

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