



March 4th 2022

By post & email: School Transport System

Dear Minister,

I formally write to make representation to you on behalf of our membership, private bus operators who operate 80% of the schools transport system on behalf of the Department of Education through Bus Eireann.

The escalation in price of fuel for the vehicles being used to provide the transport of our children daily is taking a massive toll on the costs being experienced by our members. At this time last year a 5,000 litre tank of oil cost €5,500 - this is now costing in excess of €9,000 (on March 2nd 2022) and those increases are continuing apace.

We believe that the Government, Department of Education, Department of Transport and Department of Finance should introduce a temporary additional payment to offset the increasing fuel costs and allow the operators to continue to provide these vital services. The operators are in a position now where any further increase in these costs will mean that they are operating at a loss, which is obviously not an option for these businesses and could jeopardise the transport that parents rely on to get their children to school.

Thank you for taking the time to look into this critical issue and look forward to your considered response and assistance to this essential sector.

Yours Sincerely

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

John Dunne
Director FOTO

cc: Minister for Education
Minister of State with responsibility for Special Education and Inclusion
Secretary General of the Department of Education
Assistant Secretary for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants Terms and Conditions, External HR, School Transport, Residential Institutions Redress Unit
Minister for Transport
Secretary General Department of Transport
Minister of State with responsibility for International and Road Transport and Logistics
Minister for Finance
Secretary General of the Department of Finance