



October 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

Copied to:

Minister of Education Joe McHugh TD  
Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment Richard Bruton  
Minister for Justice & Equality Charlie Flanagan  
Minister of State John Halligan  
Minister of State Finian McGrath

Dear Minister,

I refer to a unilateral decision taken by a number of PSV (Public Service Vehicles) Inspectors in a number of Garda Districts whereby they will no longer issue Article 60 Licences for the carriage of School Children. The Article 60 licence allows for a vehicle to be used for School Transport only. The withdrawal of these licences threatens the sustainability of these services, in the main, to the Special Needs sector and those most in need of these services. I wish to make the following observations and, hopefully, suggestions to overcome the quite legitimate concerns of these PSV Inspectors.

There are 2 main issues that have been highlighted in respect of the issue of these licences;

Roadworthiness of the vehicle used  
Suitability of the drivers of Article 60 vehicles as presently pertains.

Both of these issues can be resolved without the nuclear option of no longer issuing the Article 60 Licence with the use of Addendum to the regulations that will allow for the continued use of older vehicles and qualified drivers to meet the standards required under the Small Public Service Vehicle Regulations. There is no reason why the addendum to the present Article 60 Licence cannot include both:

- (a) that the vehicle must undergo testing twice annually and
- (b) that the driver must be Garda Vetted

These addendums would be in lieu of withdrawing of the Article 60 Licence altogether which will have a very serious impact on the most needy in our society. The services to this most vulnerable cohort of people in our society can only be sustained through the flexibility of the type of vehicle and the driver combination. Certainly there should be no deficit in the roadworthiness of the vehicle and most certainly the drivers of these vehicles must be Garda vetted.

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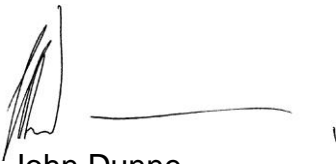
Embassy Office Park, Kill, Co Kildare  
045 878500



Reg No: 458014

However, the replacing of the Article 60 Licence by bringing the solutions under the SPSV Regulations, as presently being proposed, will limit the availability of both vehicles and drivers leading to unnecessary increased cost to the Exchequer. Further, it is quite possible that the withdrawal of the Article 60 Licence will deprive our most vulnerable of the present personal, flexible, localised services when these become commercialised through bringing them under the SPSV mantel.

Yours Sincerely



John Dunne  
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