

John Dunne

From: John Dunne
Sent: 24 August 2020 15:16
To: minister@dttas.ie
Subject: FW: School Transport Solutions

Dear Minister,

I forward to you my correspondence to the Minister for Education and Skills. Therein you will note that a decision by your colleague and her Department flies full in the face of logic and reason on many fronts including the stated position of your party on entering Government

You have further stated that there are no buses to provide schools transport. I have informed you that there are 1,000's of buses in the country available to you but you too seem to be unable to see behind the advices you are getting from your officials and persist in making these false statements on their behalf. We need solutions to the schools transport problems now presented by this awful Covid 19 virus. I have offered you the services of over 1,500 small to medium bus and coach operators across Ireland. You have not responded.

I have sought a small grant to help these bus and coach operators return to schools transport and the minimal private hire that may now be possible. This grant has been passed through Bus Eireann and abused resulting in 10% of the buses provided by Bus Eireann receiving over 50% of the grant. My members receive 19 cents a day to do a deep clean once a day, a wipe down of all surfaces at least twice a day and provide sanitation and protective equipment to drivers and passengers, an insult. This abuse by a dominant player in the Irish Bus and Coach sector, by your bus and coach company, is unacceptable and will be challenged by FOTO in the courts if must be.

Please respond by return when we may be able to salvage some vestige of reason and be in a position at this late stage to provide a transport option for our children that is safe, regulated and proper.

John Dunne
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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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