



March 9th 2026

Department of Finance

Department of Transport

Department of Education

Reference: Volatility in Fuel Prices
Private Bus Hire Operators on TFI, Regional Scheduled Services and
School Transport Contracts

Dear Minister,

I write in the interest of over 2100 Public Service Vehicle businesses operating nearly 10,000 vehicles throughout Ireland.

We are all acutely aware of the actions currently being carried out in the Middle East and the effects they are having on global trade and, in particular, the movement of oil, petroleum and gas from these areas. It has created huge volatility in the price of fuel for the operators of transport solutions in Ireland.

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. I would ask that the Government, Department of Education, Department of Transport and Department of Finance consider an immediate emergency subsidy to support these operators, for the period of uncertainty and volatility, and allow them to continue to provide much needed services across the health, school, local transport and public service spectrum.

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, patients and the general public rely on, on a daily basis.

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 "Carlos Dunne", is positioned above the printed name.

Carlos Dunne
Director
Federation of Transport Operators (FOTO)



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