



November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

Minister Eamon Ryan TD  
Department of Transport  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
D02 TR60

Dear Minister Ryan,

I am disappointed and indeed surprised that you did not afford me at the least the courtesy of a response to my many letters and proposals.

I have had to resort to the Freedom of Information process to try and elicit why small to medium bus and coach operators are so discriminated against by you, your Department and Government in general. I have also had to resort to instructing the legal team of the Federation of Transport Operators (FOTO) to challenge what can only be termed as abuse of a dominant position by your semi-state companies and other agencies with whom your Department and other Departments have arrangements.

My initial proposal sought a grant to help small to medium bus and coach operators who are suffering greatly from the loss of opportunity upon which they depended to support and make solvent their businesses. This proposal was set out as a simple quick solution that required little administration and was proposed as a direct payment to these operators, circa 1,500. I now note that our Northern Ireland counterparts are receiving supports based on the solvency levels of their Transport Operators Licence which is £8,000 for the first bus and £4,450 for each additional bus.

The supports announced by the Irish Government cannot be accessed by Irish bus and coach operators in the main. Supports in general have been made so difficult to access and require professional interpretation that many small businesses cannot afford or are afraid to incur the cost of such professional interpretation.



Reg No: 152032

Embassy Office Park, Kill, Co Kildare  
045 878500



Reg No: 458014

I appeal to you Minister to please consider the simple solution as adopted by your peers in the Northern Ireland Assembly and as outlined in my proposals of the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Small to medium bus and coach operators need support urgently if they are to continue even minimal local services such as local private school runs operated directly with the parents and where the State companies have decided they cannot or will not.

I will be happy to discuss this matter with you and to clarify any aspect of this issue.

My contact details are below.

Yours Sincerely



John Dunne  
Director  
Federation of Transport Operators (FOTO) / iBus plc.  
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