

Carlos Dunne

Subject: FW: DES-MoSH-00066-2020

From: John Dunne
Sent: 27 March 2020 09:27
To: 'Minister of State John Halligan'
Subject: RE: DES-MoSH-00066-2020

Good Morning Minister,

I refer to my previous representations to you on behalf of small to medium bus and coach operators and I thank you for your most helpful responses. I urgently need clarification on a number of issues around the schools contract to allow these operators make decisions on the future of their drivers. Heretofore the Department of Education and Skills has paid Bus Eireann in full for closures forced by the Covid 19 virus and this has been passed down to their sub-contractors. However, a recent email from Bus Eireann to these sub-contractors advises that these payments will be reduced by 50%. Whereas, we appreciate the great demands on Government at this time and we are happy to work with Government in any way we possibly can we do want parity of treatment. The decision yesterday by Bus Eireann to cut payments to private bus and coach operators and their drivers by 50% must be applied to all operators on Schools Transport contracts, including Bus Eireann. We are most concerned that the drivers of school buses with Bus Eireann receive full pay. We also note that on special needs routes and where an escort is required, these are usually employed by the Boards of Management of the special needs schools, this escort receives full pay whilst our driver does not! These anomalies must be addressed if we are to succeed in defeating this virus together, equally.

I trust you are keeping well Minister and may I congratulate you and your colleagues in Government on a job very well done over the last month and for your decisive actions in fighting the Covid 19 Pandemic.

I will look forward to your earliest response and thank you.

Yours Sincerely

John Dunne
Director
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Ibus plc.