

Patrick O'Donovan TD  
Constituency Office  
St Mary's Road  
Newcastle West  
Co. Limerick  
V42 Y925

**Date:** 21st July 2021

**Re:** Railway works and all works necessary to eliminate and, where necessary, upgrade seven numbered level crossings and carry out all associated and ancillary works along a 24-kilometre section of the Dublin to Cork Railway Line.  
Fantstown, Thomastown, Ballyhay, Newtown, Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village), Shinanagh and Buttevant, Co. Cork and Co. Limerick.

Dear Sir,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Cork County Council and Limerick City and County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

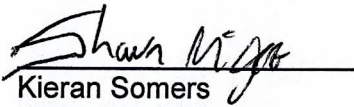
If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glao Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

RA05

Tell  
Glao Áitiúil  
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Láithreán Gréasáin  
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Secretary of An Bord Pleanála  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
Ireland  
D01 V902



**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

LDG- 041561-21

ABP- \_\_\_\_\_

08 JUL 2021

Fee: € 50 Type: cheque

Time: 15.36 By: Hand

**PATRICK O'DONOVAN TD**

Minister for the Office of Public Works

Limerick County Constituency

Constituency Office:

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Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Dáil Tel: 01 6183000

Re: Application by Córas Iompair Éireann for a Railway Order. ABP- Case reference:  
NC04.305149

A Chara,

As a Dáil Deputy for the Constituency of Limerick County and representative of the community of Effin, I would like to make a submission in respect of the proposed removal and closure of a level crossing at Thomastown, Co. Limerick (public reference XC201).

The Application for a Railway Order seeks to close the existing level crossing, create a new road over rail bridge and a new junction on the R515.

The R515 is a busy strategic regional road linking strategic towns of Kilmallock and Charleville, both identified in the respective plans of Limerick and Cork for growth in the coming years. The road currently is the main artery for the community of Effin, which has been effectively split in two by the railway line for over a century. The removal of the level crossing is an opportunity to provide an uninterrupted access for both sides of the community to be able to travel seamlessly between each other. The Community of Effin want their views brought to the attention of the Board and want the Board to listen to their concerns under the heading of road safety, having lived there for generations, and now getting a once off opportunity to benefit their community.

#### New Junction R515

Having met residents that live along, and adjacent to the R515, they have laid out a very clear case for the need for a stacking/turning lane for right hand turning traffic off of the R515. They do so with the daily knowledge they have gained over years of trying to turn right off of the R515 at the existing junctions that are along the road and point to the fact that as this is a new junction, and with growth in traffic clearly being established, the need for a right hand lane at the junction is clear.

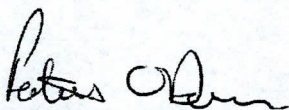


**New road over rail.**

The residents have again expressed their concern at the proposed width of the road from the proposed new junction with R515 to the new bridge over the rail and have asked that the proposed road be widened to allow at least two vehicles to pass. They have also asked that the Board would take into consideration the agricultural backdrop and setting of the area and the heavy nature of the vehicles that will be likely to use this road. Again they point out that this will be a once off opportunity to improve the road safety aspect for the community of Effin and they would like to ensure that the proposed width is not designed in a way that will hamper its use in the future and render it unsafe for two vehicles attempting to pass each other.

I would appreciate if the Board will take the observations contained in my submission into account when arriving at a decision in respect of the application for the Railway Order.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick O'Donovan', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick O'Donovan TD