



**Fáilte
Ireland**

Turasóireacht Náisiúnta
An tÚdara Eorbartha
National Tourism
Development Authority

08 OCT 2023

LTR DATED _____ FROM _____

LDC-

31 4 2 3 2 - 2 2

Mr. Denis Baker

Chairman

Inland Waterways Association of Ireland - Royal Canal Branch

27 September 2023

Re: Dart + West Project Newcomen Bridge (Case Reference: 314232)

To whom it may concern:

Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority, inputted to Dart+ Programme consultations that Iarnród Éireann held in relation to the proposed rail improvements for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).

Fáilte Ireland is supportive of the programme and its objectives. We have already made a submission in relation to the proposed programme to this effect. We note the electrification plans of the DART+ West to Maynooth/M3 Parkway and the proposed enhancements at Connolly Station to allow for increased train numbers per hour which is welcomed. The line runs adjacent to the Royal Canal and the Royal Canal Greenway currently runs from Maynooth to Longford which is Ireland's longest greenway at 130km.

Fáilte Ireland are working with members of the tourism industry & relevant stakeholders to unlock the commercial potential that these Canal networks (*Royal and Grand Canals*) can offer visitors and local communities.

To develop a compelling and enhanced tourism experience of the canals (e.g. *connecting these canals with the with the River Shannon and Dublin Docklands*), the navigational traffic should ideally enable visitors to travel along their preferred routes without too many restrictions.

However, the potential opportunity that the Canals offer for the development of tourism along these 3 significant waterways is curtailed in part because of the intricate operational issues involved in 'lifting' the Newcomen Bridge – which restricts the flow of canal navigation along the Royal Canal.

We would request that Iarnród Éireann would take the opportunity of this new works programme to examine how the navigational flow on the canal could be improved in terms of making it as free-flowing as possible.

As the National Tourism Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland would like to ensure that visitors expectations are met, which would boost local rural economies along the route and support local communities.



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Yours sincerely

Paddy

Paddy Mathews

Head of Operations
Ireland's Hidden Heartlands
Market Square
Commons
Mullingar
County Westmeath
N91 PW95
M +353 (0) 86 854 2209

Sent By Email

Our Ref: CE199/2023

Kay Baxter
President
Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

27th September 2023



Dear Kay

I wish to confirm that Waterways Ireland have made a submission and inputted into the consultation held by Iaranród Éireann concerning the **Dart + West Railway Order Project**. I can also confirm that the protection, maintenance, continued use, and enhancement of the navigational and recreational assets of the Royal Canal, including Newcomen Bridge, the towpaths and greenway stretches in the study area have been highlighted by Waterways Ireland in its submission.

I can confirm that the submission proposed by the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWA) is in line with our own position and is supported by Waterways Ireland. I note particularly in the IWA submission the ongoing opportunity losses caused by the restrictions presently in place at Newcomen Bridge. Forsaking these opportunities in the future will hinder user participation on and along the canals especially new houseboat communities.

I attach a copy of our submission and can confirm that Waterways Ireland will attend the oral hearing beginning tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



John Mc Donagh
Chief Executive

2 Bóthar Shligigh
Inis Ceathleann
Contae Fhear Manach
BT74 7JY

2 Sligo Road
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7JY

2 Sligo Road
Enniskillen
County Fermanagh
BT74 7JY