

Question to the Chief Executive**Council Meeting 14th June 2021****Q.4 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH**

E&T To ask Chief Executive for breakdowns of incidents in the port tunnel. How frequently does tunnel close for these reasons? What type incidents can cause tunnel to close?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY: **A breakdown of incidents in the port tunnel.**

2020 In 2020 there were 1563 total incidents including 15 collisions/road accidents in the Dublin Tunnel, 5 of these did not result in injury. 27 incidents resulted in damage to property. The tunnel control team dealt with 1 fire in October of 2020. 4 near miss incidents which could have resulted in a more serious incident. The team handled 163 broken down vehicles both inside the tunnel and on the affected property. These breakdowns are made up of light vehicles, HGV's and DGV's.

2021 In 2021 the operations team managed a total of 1477 incidents, this included 9 minor collisions which did not cause injury. During the year there were 57 incidents which caused damage to property. We had a minor fire in September which was dealt with by the team very quickly and effectively. The total number of breakdowns for the year was 191 which were in the tunnel and on the affected property. All breakdowns which included HGV's, DGV's and light vehicles were managed by the team and our on-site recovery crew. Overheight vehicles are a continual task with the team dealing with a total of 5,608 such vehicles over the year. In general, the number of incidents in 2021 and 2020 were down on previous years because of the pandemic. In conjunction with outside agencies the team also managed the impact on the tunnel and the wider network of two protests by HGV drivers.

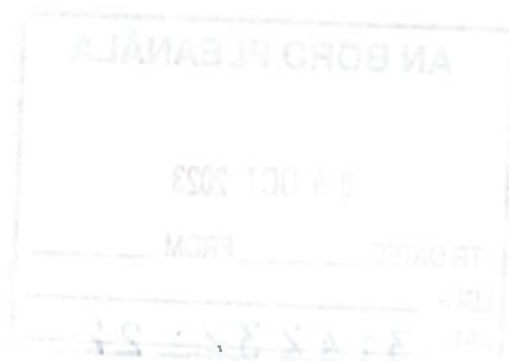
2019 In 2019 there were 1852 total incidents including 36 collisions/accidents in the Dublin Tunnel. Ensuring maximum tunnel availability remained the greatest challenge in 2019 with over height vehicles, abnormal loads and breakdowns being an ongoing source of disruption requiring constant vigilance from the control room. During the year 292 breakdowns with an average recovery time of 49 minutes.

2018 In 2018 there were 42 collisions/accidents in the Dublin Tunnel. During the year 282 breakdowns with an average recovery time of 39 minutes. The figures for 2017 were 235 breakdowns and 43 minutes respectively. HGV's, Buses, DGV's and LV required an average of 51 minutes in 2018 to affect a safe recovery once all breakdowns of less than 15min are removed. As traffic volumes have increased so to have the volume of overheight vehicles approaching the tunnel. In 2018, 5,404 overheight activations were recorded and while a decrease from the 2017 total of 5,685 (4.9%), overheight vehicles still pose a significant risk to the tunnel if not diligently and professionally managed.

2022 Dublin tunnel operations team managed at total of 1556 incidents in 2022, this was an increase of 79 from 2021. The team in conjunction with DFB and AGS, dealt with two vehicle fires in the tunnel. Both incidents were managed efficiently to minimise traffic to the wider network. There was a total of 234 Breakdowns which is an increase of 43 on 2021. Incidents which caused damage to property also increased by 22 to 79, all breakdowns were managed by our on-site recovery team and traffic patrollers. We saw an increase in the number of Overheight vehicles.

6561 in 2022 and 5608 in 2021. Towards the end of 2022 we experienced some disruption due to protests in the local area.

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