



**Córas Iompair Éireann**

**Bainistíocht Maoine Grúpa**  
Teach Curzon  
35, Sráid na Mainistreach Íochtarach  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 H560

**Group Property Management**  
Curzon House  
35, Lower Abbey Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 H560

The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála,  
61-64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Application for Railway Order**  
**DART+ Coastal North Railway Order 2024**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) hereby applies to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37(1) of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended and substituted) for the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order. The consent of the National Transport Authority for making the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application is included in the enclosures attached to this letter. The DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application relates to a railway that is designated as a heavy railway.

The Railway Order will, if granted, authorise the railway works necessary to enable CIÉ to significantly increase rail capacity on the Northern Line between Dublin City Centre and Drogheda, and the Howth Branch. This will be achieved by extending the electrification of the rail line between Malahide and Drogheda, as well as reconfiguration of the existing track layout and infrastructure in the vicinity of Drogheda MacBride, Malahide, Clongriffin, and Howth Junction & Donaghmede Stations, including the removal of existing crossing conflicts at Howth Junction & Donaghmede Station.

This Application is made following conclusion of the pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála (pre-application consultation Ref.: ABP-311802-21). The pre-application consultations were formally concluded by letter from An Bord Pleanála dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (enclosed as part of this correspondence).

The statutory application fee of €100,000 for making a Railway Order application has been paid to An Bord Pleanála by electronic transfer. Confirmation of payment to An Bord Pleanála is enclosed in Annex 3.

The format in which this Application documentation has been compiled includes a set of reports which are readily accessible to and legible by the public. As previously discussed and agreed with An Bord Pleanála, we now enclose two paper copies and three electronic copies of the Railway Order documentation, containing identical information and comprising:

- A draft of the proposed DART+ Coastal North Railway Order, entitled “DART+ Coastal North Railway Order [2024]”;
- The associated Railway Order Plans, identifying the proposed railway works and identifying the owners and occupiers of lands listed in the Schedules;
- The associated Book of Reference & Schedules to the Railway Order, describing the works and indicating the identity of the owners and of the occupiers of lands identified in the Plan;
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), providing a systematic analysis and assessment of the likely effects of the proposed project on the receiving environment;
- An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and the Natura Impact Statement for the project;
- A Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment for the project; and
- The Planning Report for the project.

We certify that the Railway Order application documentation presented to An Bord Pleanála, Prescribed Bodies, and to the relevant Local Authorities in paper copy, in electronic format and presented on the standalone website (<http://www.dartcoastalnorthrailwayorder.ie>) is generated from a single data source and is identical.

An electronic editable version of the draft Railway Order document is included, to assist in consideration of the Railway Order application.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 40 of the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended and substituted), CIÉ has undertaken the following:

- For ease of access to information for the public, arrangements have been made to make the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order Application documentation and the Pre-Application Consultation documentation available at the following locations:
  - An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902;
  - Planning Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Office, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F;
  - Planning Department, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, County Dublin, K67 X8Y2;
  - Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638;
  - Planning Department, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291;
  - Planning Department, Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, County Louth, A91 KFW6;
  - Donaghmede Library, Donaghmede Shopping Centre, Grange Road, Dublin 13, D13 XW28;
  - Rush Library, Chapel Green, Rush, County Dublin, K56 ED95;
  - Balbriggan Library, Saint George's Square, Balbriggan, County Dublin, K32 TW27;
  - Drogheda Library, Stockwell Lane, Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, A92 PY20;
  - Iarnród Éireann, Connolly Station, Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6; and
  - DART+ Coastal North Project Office, CIÉ Inchicore Works, Inchicore Parade, Dublin 8, D08 K6Y3.

These locations where the public can access the paper copy of the Railway Order application documentation are referenced in the newspaper notices, along with details of the standalone website ([www.dartcoastalnorthrailwayorder.ie](http://www.dartcoastalnorthrailwayorder.ie)). The newspaper notice also indicates where copies of the documents can be purchased.

- Notices have been published in National and Regional newspapers, indicating CIÉ's intention to submit the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application to An Bord Pleanála. The notice was published in the following newspaper circulating to communities along the route:
  - Irish Independent, published on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024;
  - Drogheda Independent, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024;
  - Meath Chronicle, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, and
  - Dublin People Group Northside East, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

The newspaper notice makes it clear that the statutory consultation period closes at 5.30pm on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024** for any person wishing to make a submission or observation on the Railway Order application. Copies of all newspaper notices have been enclosed in this correspondence.

- The DART+ Coastal North Railway Order Application documentation and a copy of the Irish Independent newspaper notice have been served on each of the Planning Authorities (Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Meath County Council and Louth County Council) and on each of the prescribed bodies specified by An Bord Pleanála or designated by the Minister for Transport under section 39A of the 2001 Act.
- Notice has been served on owners and occupiers of lands along the route advising of CIÉ's intention to submit the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application. Relevant extracts from the Railway Order application documents and a copy of the Irish Independent newspaper notice have been enclosed in this correspondence.

In addition to the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application documentation, the following documentation is provided:

- Completed Strategic Infrastructure Development application form;
- Confirmation of notification to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage about the application for inclusion in the EIA Portal;
- An electronic copy of the Railway Order application site extents, in geo-referenced shapefile orientated to the ITM co-ordinate reference system for use on your GIS software;
- Letter of consent from the National Transport Authority dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, in accordance with Section 46(2) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act, 2008 (as amended by the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009). This letter of consent allows CIÉ to lodge a Railway Order Application within the functional area of the National Transport Authority.
- List and details of all correspondence served on Local Authorities and Prescribed and / or Designated Bodies indicating intent to apply for DART+ Coastal North Railway Order;
- List and details of all owners and occupiers of land included in the Railway Order application schedules and plans;
- List of all documents, figures, plans, drawings and photos included in the Railway Order application documentation.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared and compiled in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU (“the EIA Directive”), the 2001 Act (as amended and substituted, including by the European Union (Railway Orders) (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. No. 743/2021) and having regard to relevant guidance documents and guidelines.

The DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application documentation and all associated surveys and assessments have been prepared with regard for the relevant national, regional and local policy documentation and guidelines available at the time of printing.

An over-riding objective of the DART+ Coastal North project has been to consider all environmental aspects of the project in a holistic manner and to design the scheme, in such a manner, as to have the least overall residual impact on the environment during construction and operation. In this regard, DART+ Coastal North has been the subject of extensive optioneering and constraint studies, design assessments and environmental appraisals. Feedback from extensive stakeholder and public consultations has also informed the design of the scheme. The engineering design and the construction methodologies for DART+ Coastal North, presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, are considered to strike the best balance between technical and engineering constraints, environmental issues and local community concerns.

I trust that this Railway Order Application is in order and look forward to hearing from you.

Please do not hesitate to contact the project team if you require anything further.

**Yours sincerely,**



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**Geraldine Finucane**  
Group Secretary, C.I.É.

**Dated**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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**Enclosures:**

Annex 1 – An Bord Pleanála Letter Concluding Pre-application Consultations

Annex 2 – NTA Letter of Consent

Annex 3 – Application Payment Receipt

Annex 4 – List of Prescribed Bodies and or Designated Bodies and Sample letter

Annex 5 – Newspaper Notices

Annex 6 – SID Application Form

Annex 7 – EIA Portal Acknowledgement

Annex 8 – Digital Copy of Application Boundary

Annex 9 – List of Landowners/Occupiers and Sample letter

Annex 10 – List of Documentation Submitted

Annex 11 – Summary of Consultations