



Mr. Aidan Grogan
Manager Human Resources
CIÉ
Heuston Station
Dublin 8

15th February 2021

Re: Special Recognition of Public Transport Workers pertaining to their response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/2021

Dear Sir,

The NBRU wishes to advise that it is seeking the assistance of your office towards enabling public transport workers within the CIÉ Group of Companies to be granted a material recognition of their massive contribution throughout the current Covid-19 crisis.

NBRU members, and their colleagues across public transport, have demonstrated collective determination and commitment in massively assisting towards the States response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bus drivers, frontline customer service personnel onboard trains, bus/train station staff, train drivers have all been under significant strain throughout the pandemic. Despite concerns for their own health and safety, they have continued to contribute to the National effort in literally keeping the wheels of the economy turning.

Those same workers have been ably assisted by colleagues such as clerical, maintenance, supervisory etc. No bus, no train can operate without several layers of support staff.

The risks associated with working on the frontline during the pandemic have been continuously highlighted by the NBRU throughout the crisis.

Our colleagues, like many of their fellow Citizens, were unable to take leave in a manner that such leave would normally be enjoyed. Indeed, the entitlement to annual leave was used as a tool or vehicle to reduce pressure on payroll at the initial stages of the crisis, at a time when the subsidiaries were themselves unsure as to how, or if, the Exchequer would continue to support the provision of public transport throughout the pandemic.

This resulted in annual leave (at least 10-days) being 'burnt-off' to facilitate the alteration of rosters throughout 2020.

Many transport workers experienced great difficulties with regards to childcare and schooling during the pandemic when schools and creche facilities were closed, attempting to balance work with their family responsibilities was extremely difficult, if not impossible. The usual remedy of family members facilitating child minding was not tenable, this in turn led to more annual leave being used, than would otherwise be the norm.

The unique circumstances of this pandemic and the continuous service provision by transport workers requires recognition by their employer and supported by the relevant Government Department/s.

We are now seeking your assistance towards:

Making the case to Government for additional funding to facilitate an extra 10 days leave for all public transport staff with the CIÉ Group of Companies for the year commencing 1st January 2022.

The NBRU will (Taoiseach and line Minister copied) also make direct appeals to Government for support in recognising the massive contribution of public transport workers during this unprecedented Pandemic.

This correspondence should be treated as formal notification of the NBRU claim for compensatory (annual) leave for all workers covered within the collective bargaining structures within the CIÉ Companies.

Whilst the NBRU remains available to discuss the content of this correspondence, its central component of the necessity to materially recognise the contribution of public transport workers should be the dominant feature of such discussions.

..
Yours sincerely



Dermot O'Leary
General Secretary

Copy/ An Taoiseach Michèal Martin TD

- “ Mr. Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport
- “ Mr. Ray Coyne CEO Dublin Bus
- “ Mr. Jim Meade CEO Iarnród Éireann
- “ Mr. Stephen Kent CEO Bus Éireann