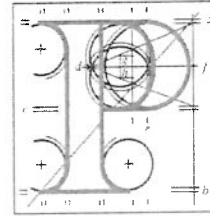


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Sarah Robertson
6 Nashville Park
Howth
D13KX64

Date: 05 November 2024

Re: DART + Coastal North Railway Order 2024 - Northern Line between Dublin City Centre and Drogheda including the Howth Branch
Dublin City Centre and Drogheda, located in counties Dublin, Meath and Louth

Dear Sir / Madam,


An Bord Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

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

Yours faithfully,



Aisling Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737131

RA03

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Ríomhphost

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

6 Nashville Park

Howth, D13kx64

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Howth, in fact my family go back at least four generations to Howth. Howth has benefited from a **direct** rail link to the city centre for well over a 100 years. I make this point not to brag, but to verify that I have a justified reason for making this observation, and also have the benefit of living here long enough to see what is important for this area.

It was on the basis of this **direct** rail link that many important communities have grown – Sutton, Baldoyle, Raheny, and in more recent years it the existence of a **direct** rail link was the single one and only reason that your Board permitted the many strategic housing developments that are currently bring constructed within Howth and Sutton.

It is no exaggeration whatsoever that since the inception of Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle and Raheny as residential communities that a **direct** dart service was crucial, and that dependency has grown only more critical with increased residential density and decreased residential services.

I have gone to every meeting and am fully familiar with the application. One thing that stands out as very clear is that Irish Rail have not sufficiently addressed alternatives, and as the statutory regulator it is incumbent upon you in Irish and EU law to consider reasonable alternatives.

For example, there has been to date no exploration of the possibilities for additional lines as opposed to sharing the existing lines. I see that Irish Rail have just announced a study into looking at additional lines and I think that for the Board to decide this application prior to that study would be unlawful. There has also been no exploration of the sustainable option that is gaining considerable support which is to run the dart line underground from Howth Junction to Howth and making a greenway out of the existing above ground track line.

If is crucial that the Board refer this application back to Irish Rail and direct them to explore further alternatives that will ensure a **direct** service from Howth to the City Centre.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Robertson