

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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Northern Ireland
Assembly

NI Assembly is in Recess



Wednesday, 16 December 2015

Written Answers:

Summary: Dessie Ellis TD asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will “work with the Stormont and transport companies in the North to deliver an island-wide integrated ticketing system and to improve access to cross-Border public transport services.” Minister Donohoe advised that the NTA along with DRD and Translink are exploring the possibilities for integrated cross-border ticking as well as smart ticking across Ireland.

Paschal Donohoe: I understand from the National Transport Authority, NTA, that it has held discussions with the Department of Regional Development and Translink in Northern Ireland in order to explore the possibilities for integrated cross-Border ticketing. The current ticketing systems are incompatible and the NTA understands that Translink is in the process of putting together a tender for new ticketing equipment for the North.

Concurrently, the NTA is looking into the possibilities of the next evolution of smart ticketing across Ireland and is having discussions with Translink with a view to exploring the opportunities for collaboration. These discussions are at an early stage and at this point in time, there are no defined

plans for integration. However, both NTA and Translink recognise the potential of linking up the systems and are keen to explore further.

An example of the tangible benefit cross-Border co-operation can deliver to everybody on our island is the fact that approximately €21 million has been awarded to two separate cross-Border railway projects, the Drogheda viaduct and Enterprise refurbishment project, which will significantly enhance the transport infrastructure of the region on a cross-Border basis. This has been financed through the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, SEUPB. I launched the Drogheda viaduct on 7 December and the Enterprise refurbishment project will be complete by the end of this year. Both projects will enhance one of our main cross-Border infrastructure links, thereby supporting trade and tourism between the two biggest cities on the island.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2015-12-16a.90&s=cross-border#g96>