

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

29 June 2018 – 6 July 2018



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January 2017.



Tuesday 3 July 2018

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Robert Troy asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if his departmental officials have had meetings with or made representations to relevant EU officials and bodies regarding an early review of Ireland's TEN-T infrastructure in view of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Shane Ross: My officials have met and are liaising with the European Commission in relation to the TEN-T network in the context of Brexit and have raised Ireland's concerns about the implications for connectivity and trade should the UK no longer be part of the TEN-T network.

Last month I also met with Professor Peter Balazs, the EU Coordinator for the North Sea Mediterranean Corridor, and Mr Brian Simpson, the EU Coordinator for Motorways of the Sea, at which I again raised our concerns about the impact of Brexit on Ireland's connectivity and peripherality.

Earlier this month, the European Commission published its proposal for a new Regulation for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the funding instrument for TEN-T, to come into effect from 1 January 2021. At the request of my Department, the Annex to the draft proposal provides for an extension of the Core Belfast – Dublin - Cork TEN-T Corridor to include the port of Shannon Foynes

and also, on cross-border sections of the comprehensive network, to include sections of the cross-border Dublin – Strabane – Letterkenny comprehensive road.

My Department is also committed to making a more detailed submission to the European Commission in respect of the TEN-T network, taking account of the implications of Brexit, the current National Development Plan and National Planning Framework.

Source <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-07-03a.1201&s=cross-border+2018-06-29..2018-07-06#g1203.r>

Tuesday 3 July 2018

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the discussions he has held with the authorities in Northern Ireland on the need to carry out drainage work on the River Erne in counties Cavan and Fermanagh; the proposals there are to have such works undertaken; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Paschal Donohoe: There are a number of watercourses including the river Erne that flow between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Office of Public Works (OPW) has a long-standing working relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, Rivers (DfI Rivers) which is the competent authority for the implementation of the 'EU Floods Directive' in Northern Ireland.

In 2009, the OPW and DfI Rivers agreed to establish a Cross-Border Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate the implementation of the 'EU Floods Directive' across the border. This work was supported by a Cross-Border Technical Co-ordination Group. These groups have met on a number of occasions to co-ordinate their respective work to screen and assess the flood risk and to prepare plans to manage flood risk in border areas.

The Erne Catchment was assessed under the OPW's Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme, in close co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland. The study considered increasing watercourse conveyance of the Erne system to lower water levels as a measure to reduce flood risk. This study revealed that water levels in the majority of the Erne catchment in Ireland, remain unchanged regardless of any works that could be carried out in Northern Ireland.

The OPW does not have Arterial Drainage Schemes on the River Erne system in County Cavan and is not responsible for channel maintenance in the area in accordance with its statutory requirements under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945. However parts of the Erne Catchment are a Drainage District for which the local authority is responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-07-03a.9&s=cross-border+2018-06-29..2018-07-06#g11.r>