

Support numberSU08
Supporter's Name Arthur Murphy, P&O Ferries
Date submitted..... 11 March 2015
NIMVO plot numberN/A

TransportNI has considered the correspondence in the above communication and responds as follows:

- 1. In response to the announcement by the Minister for Regional Development on 27th January 2015, that the above Proposed Scheme Report and associated statements have now been published, P&O Ferries would like to register its' full support for the project and would encourage its' expeditious progression.**

The strategic importance of this key infrastructural project to the economy of Northern Ireland cannot be underestimated. The connectivity of the three main arterial motorways is vital to sustain the road haulage industry's pivotal role in delivering Northern Irish goods to market more efficiently and with greater cost effectiveness.

As a company that works closely with local, national and international road transport companies, it's important that we do whatever we can to support and sustain this sector of the economy. It is our duty to lobby government and local authorities to make strenuous efforts to improve the roads infrastructure in our business hinterland. To that end we have met with the Minister to convey our views about improving the road network in Northern Ireland, and to invite him to match our efforts to persuade the Scottish government to continue to invest in the arterial routes on south west Scotland that are so important to our customer base.

We also took the opportunity to congratulate the Minister and his Department team on taking the forward-looking decision to press ahead with the York Street Interchange project especially during these financially chastened times.

P&O Ferries views this project as equal in importance to the soon to be completed A8 Larne-Belfast dual carriageway scheme. Both will improve the convenience and reachability of the Port of Larne to hauliers operating across the island of Ireland. Indeed such new projects will deliver journey reliability, fuel economy and time saving opportunities to the road haulage industry and therefore support the shortest fastest most frequent ferry link between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, Larne to Cairnryan.

From both narrow company and the broader business viewpoints, P&O Ferries believes that the York Street Interchange will provide lasting economic benefits to the local industrial, retail and agri-food sectors as well as the tourism sector. All of these are vital to maintaining our role in delivering competitive ferry services on the Irish Sea.

- a) TransportNI notes your email and associated letter of 03 March 2015 and welcomes your strong support of the Proposed Scheme.

Construction Programme

- b) It is anticipated that the scheme would require a minimum period of just over 3 years (38 months) to construct, subject to the advance completion of service diversion works or

advance placement of service diversion Orders with the relevant utility providers. Based on the current programme, TransportNI expects construction works to commence in Autumn 2017, subject to successful progression of the Statutory Orders procedures (including Public Inquiry), availability of funding, and detailed economic appraisal. On this basis, the scheme could be completed by late 2020.

c) We would thank-you once again for your interest in this scheme.

DRD TransportNI
Eastern Division
02 October 2015