

Róisín Shortall, T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2 - D02 A272

2nd March 2022

Dear Deputy

I am writing to you concerning the matter you raised in [Parliamentary Question No. 247 on 15 February last](#), which has been referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for reply.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has appointed an independent engineering expert to review Railway Order submission documents, including design route drawings, the environmental impact assessment report and associated relevant technical papers with a view to providing an objective report(s) on various aspects of MetroLink. These objective report(s) will include the impacts of MetroLink both during construction and operation phases. The independent engineering expert will carry out open discussions with stakeholder groups regarding the findings of such report(s).

RINA Consulting S.p.A. was appointed as the independent engineering expert in September 2021. All known residents' groups along the entire route were advised of the appointment and were invited to engage with the process. In all, 13 groups are scheduled to meet with RINA and 8 have now held a second meeting with RINA. Each group will have the opportunity for further meetings with RINA up to the application for the Railway Order with additional meetings when the application has been submitted.

Building on the experience of previous projects, such as Luas Cross City, it would not be deemed appropriate to have an independent engineering expert during the construction phase. TII will be putting in place a comprehensive community engagement plan, which will include amongst other

initiatives, the appointment of dedicated MetroLink local liaison representatives and local community forums which will provide detailed updates on current construction activities in their areas.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Creegan

Hugh Creegan
Deputy Chief Executive