

We the Trade Union Group are to request that you will pass this correspondence to the CIÉ Board for its consideration.

In the first instance it should be noted that our members do not want to be engaged in industrial action with their employer, it goes very much against the grain and it is a decision that was not taken lightly.

However, after watching their representatives troop over and back to the third-party institutions, practically ad-infinitum, the WRC on at least eight occasions, two hearings at the Labour Court, the members of all Unions have said quite clearly that they have had enough, voting in large numbers to provide a mandate to prosecute industrial action on their behalf.

The issues at the heart of this dispute, in some people's eyes may appear to be complex, to the Trade Union Group, not so.

The underfunding of Iarnród Éireann by successive Governments being the core problem.

Yet another complicating factor is the contractual relationship between the NTA and Iarnród Éireann, in that little or no provision is made for pay improvements, the Company being restricted to a €3.5m profit.

The Company (Iarnród Éireann) facilitated it would seem by the CIÉ Group and the Department of Transport are denying its own Staff a long overdue and well-deserved pay rise.

We are now calling on the CIE Group to provide support to the Staff at Iarnród Éireann by advising Iarnród Éireann that it should do the right thing and make a credible pay proposal in order to prevent further industrial unrest.

For far too long we have been witnessing the servile approach by both the CIÉ Board and Iarnród Éireann senior management, towards the policy makers and the paymasters in the Department of Transport, almost aping Oliver Twist by putting the hand out and saying: 'please Sir can I have some more'.

This has become an embarrassment to those that work across the CIE Companies, it is long since passed time that leadership was provided by your Board, by calling on the Department to release the foot from the throat of Iarnród Éireann, and allow the Company to meaningfully engage with Staff in order to provide them with a substantial pay rise.

Yours Sincerely,

Dermot O'Leary Greg Ennis Willie Quigley Patrick McCusker Sean Heading

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