

# Press Releases - Dart disruptions unacceptable - 12/12/00

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## Dart Disruptions Unacceptable

Councillor Eoin Costello has attacked the lack of action over the problems on the Dart line from Killiney Station to Dalkey. These problems have led to severe disruptions to the service for the past week with many commuters left stranded with no real means of transport to the city centre.

According to the DART website Iarnród Éireann stated that there will be continuing disruption to DART services between Dalkey and Greystones this week (week beginning Monday 11 December), as well as Rosslare and Arklow services.

This is due to the effect of adverse weather on Friday last. Following a mudslide onto the line at Killiney, the embankment above the railway line at Killiney is extremely unstable, with the possibility of further slides. As a result, services are suspended to ensure safety

According to Councillor Costello it is hard to believe that the same section of track suffered similar problems last winter thereby preventing thousands of people getting to work. Last winter a section of the track at the same point was undermined by storms. The gap was blocked by a number of sleepers, which were put into the hole. According to Councillor Costello there has been a lack of sufficient structural work since then. The government recently announced a number of funding initiatives to combat coastal erosion in the south Dublin area. Councillor Costello stated that these funds are too little too late.

Councillor Costello stated that commuters were particularly angry that the latest problem was most likely due to earth works at a substantial new residence being built at Gorse Hill on the Vico Road. The owner of Gorse Hill is the subject of prosecution proceedings by the County Council. Six weeks ago the owner built a tall wall along the front of the new mansion. As sea views are protected in the County's development plan and the owner made no attempt to apply for planning permission, the Council issued enforcement proceedings for removal of the wall.

The Enforcement Proceedings required that the wall be returned to its original height by 24<sup>th</sup> October. Rather than comply with the order, the owner decided to put an application for retention of the wall in to the Council 10 days after the wall should have been removed (3<sup>rd</sup> November).

For the past number of weeks heavy earth moving equipment was landscaping the extended gardens of the large building and it is thought that this work contributed to the landslide.

Councillor Costello stated that the continuous disruptions to the Dart make it impossible for the large new populations that are now living in Druid Valley and other areas south of Dalkey to rely on the service. The Dart now has a critical role in getting workers in from all over the south part of the county to the city centre. Councillor Costello stated that the strain of commuting was already sufficient without throwing in a further element of unreliability into the equation.

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