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**Éilis Fallon  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
Kildare House  
Dublin 2 - D02 XR20**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Ms Fallon

I refer to your letter dated 17 February last (Ref: S0207 PAC33) seeking details of expenditure by the National Transport Authority in relation to the BusConnects programme.

In response to this request, I attach a document titled "*BusConnects Cost Data 2018-2020*", which provides details of the total overall expenditure of €55 million in respect of the programme.

In reviewing this information, it is worth noting BusConnects Dublin is a major programme of investment, the aim of which is to transform the overall bus system in Dublin, and to that end, €2,000 million has been allocated under the National Development Plan for the implementation of the plans. The programme includes, among other things, the redesign of the overall bus network for the Dublin region, investment in infrastructure along 16 core bus corridors delivering over 200 kilometres of bus lanes and safe cycling facilities, plus the introduction of Next Generation Ticketing.

Transport infrastructure and investment projects on this scale involve a planning and design stage, where the detailed designs of the relevant projects are developed, progressed, amended and finalised. This is an essential phase without which properly developed, robust, high quality and safe designs to take forward to planning consent, and then to construction, would not be available.

Without undertaking these activities these projects simply could not be progressed to the implementation stage. The planning and design of a large infrastructure and investment project like BusConnects takes several years and involves the input of hundreds of people in order to develop the designs to the level required to bring them to physical delivery.

In the case of BusConnects, this requires the development of engineering designs of multiple roads, bridges, retaining walls, pavements, drainage, lighting, services, landscaping, traffic signalling, signage and similar, resulting in thousands of detailed engineering drawings defining and describing every aspect of the projects.

This work also involves undertaking multiple detailed topographical, geotechnical, utility, traffic and environmental surveys, across a wide geographical area. It also requires the preparation and development of detailed and comprehensive environmental assessment documentation, and other documentation required for the planning process.

Procurement of construction services must also be undertaken as part of the planning and design phase, and in advance of that, detailed construction contracts running to thousands of pages and incorporating thousands of design drawings need to be prepared.

Ensuring that members of the public, public representatives and other stakeholders are fully informed about the plans is another essential aspect of the process. It is also vital that they are given an opportunity to genuinely engage with the process so that they can provide feedback, articulate concerns, and suggest improvements. For the NTA this involves: the production, distribution and promotion of materials such as plans, revisions and updates, including versions in both official languages, and versions that are fully accessible. It also involves setting up public information and stakeholder engagement events; meeting directly with members of local communities; producing local documentation; building and maintaining websites; engaging with the public on social media and so on.

For the most part the above work relies on a specialised skill set that is required for a set period of time on a project-specific basis. Given the uniqueness of large mega-projects like BusConnects, MetroLink and the DART+ Programmes, it is not feasible for any single agency to retain the spectrum of specialised engineers, planners and other experts required to develop and deliver such international scale transport infrastructure projects.

BusConnects is a critical element of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035 and is provided for in national policies such as the National Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the 2020 Programme for Government. Its delivery will support the delivery of many of the Ireland's objectives in relation to reducing carbon emissions, encouraging more sustainable transport, consolidating our urban areas and providing enhanced connectivity across the Dublin region.

I hope that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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**Anne Graham**  
Chief Executive

**Overall Expenditure on BusConnects Programme 2018 to end 2020 = €55 million.  
Breakdown of Overall Expenditure**

Name	Description	16 Core Bus Corridors			Network Redesign Project (+ Implementation Planning)			Next Generation Ticketing			Programme Management		
		2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd - EIA/TIA	Environmental Impact Assessment and Traffic Impact Assessment Services for 16 Core Bus Corridors			12,173,890									
Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd - Engineering Design	Engineering Design Services for three Core Bus Corridors		405,900	7,346,309									
Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd - Other	Engineering design services, environmental / transport survey services and ticketing technology services	22,527	73,205	999	78,015	77,327	366,130		56,570	128,769		9,485	37,592
ARUP	Engineering Design Services for five Core Bus Corridors	23,861	214,088	9,043,599									
Aecom Ireland Limited	Engineering Design Services for four Core Bus Corridors	18,035	176,861	5,462,440									
Roughan & O'Donovan	Engineering Design Services for four Core Bus Corridors		492,000	3,825,491									
Abtran Limited	Solution Architects in Ticketing Solutions and Payments Security in Public Transport				9,914	79,716	262,743		19,119	524,048			
CIE Group Property Management	Property and Land Ownership Referencing	104,989	549,382	689,273									
Q4 Public Relations	Provision of a full time in-house communications team to undertake public consultations, stakeholder engagement and information provision.	122,668	208,443	194,162	122,668	208,443	194,162						
KPMG	Business Case Development plus Stakeholder Feedback Analysis										36,223	569,037	321,197
Apex Surveys Limited	Topographical (mapping) Surveys for bus corridors		479,356	295,420									
Paul Corrigan & Associates Ltd	Topographical (mapping) Surveys for bus corridors		408,729	227,636									
Internal NTA Charges	Internal operating costs such as accommodation, utilities, insurances, maintenance and supplies										550,252	85,678	
Mediavest t/a Spark Foundry	Media buyers for all national and local print, radio and digital advertising	126,128	138,527	45,348	126,128	138,527	45,348						
Nationwide Data Collection	Traffic and Junction Surveys			573,340			7,872						
Idaso Limited	Traffic and Junction Surveys			548,414									
JMP Consulting Limited	Programme Management Services	52,152	200,372	253,340									
Eyecue	Graphic Design and Map Design Services		132,400	117,799		132,400	117,799						
McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors	Legal Services	10,374	114,190	153,351	41,909	9,082			9,562	74,366			
Brandtactics	Provision of AVS equipment and set-up / dismantling services at public consultations and information events		165,507	57,591		165,507	57,591						
Jarrett Walker + Associates LLC	Transport Services Design Team. (Note: This contract commenced in 2017 and expenditure of €353,013 was incurred in 2017)				261,512	143,195							
Chandler KBS	Cost Estimating and Quantity Surveying Services	93,594	17,168	181,720									
Capgemini Ireland Limited	Project Management Services									277,295			
Focus Advertising Limited	Development of information and advertising materials	76,051	34,068		76,051	34,068			54,779				
Compass Informatics Limited	Development of Property Database and Route Mapper systems	62,403	5,221	13,323		118,703	33,641						
Wonder Works	Graphic Design Services for public information consultation materials	92,226	16,999		92,226	16,999							
Tech Skills Resources Limited	Computer Aided Design Technician Services	133,477	84,485	8,145									
SGS	Call Centre and Information Line	18,112	72,740	57,491	18,112	31,820	9,168						
Vix Technology UK Limited	ID Management Project to facilitate single sign-on								83,935	101,084			
Systra Limited	Technology Assessment and Options Analysis plus preliminary business case appraisal work								176,292				
Causeway Geotech Limited	Ground Investigation Surveys			172,050									
Cawley NEA Ltd T/A TBWA Dublin	Advertising agency for creative material			68,605			68,605			5,693			
UL TS B.V.	Technical research into "Next Generation Ticketing" and "Mobile Ticketing" solutions								101,255				
Spectrum Print Logistics	Public Consultation Information Printing Services		52,166	14,760		52,166	14,760						
Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates	Engineering Design Services for Options Analysis Stage	119,395											
Ernst & Young	Property Valuation Analysis		42,713	66,452									
Rebel Transit & Ticketing B.V.	International travel data analysis of EMV acceptance in public transport								13,063	95,076			
Other Suppliers	Other suppliers with < €100k expenditure	227,778	226,246	193,604	43,027	188,417	228,553			112,710			

**Overall Expenditure on BusConnects Programme 2018 to end 2020 = €55 million.**  
**Breakdown of Overall Expenditure**

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