

27th September 2021

Deputy Brian Stanley,
Chairperson,
The Committee of Public Accounts,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20.

e-mail: c/o Martin Hughes, Clerk to the Committee, pac@oireachtas.ie

The Committee of Public Accounts / National Broadband Ireland Field Trip

Dear Chair,

Following on from National Broadband Ireland's recent appearance at The Joint Committee on Transport and Communications (September 15th), one of the key themes highlighted was the level of engagement that NBI had provided to date. Specifically, in relation to a number of field trips that brought Committee members to on-site locations to better explain, demonstrate the practicalities and address queries relating to the deployment.

Our hope is that these engagements allows for greater transparency and give members greater confidence in dealing with requests for information. As such, I want to extend an invitation to all Public Accounts Committee members to experience the work of NBI teams out in the field. We genuinely believe these sessions to be informative and helpful, as it is sometimes challenging to convey the size, scale and complexity of the NBP without this context.

To give you an indicative itinerary, I have added the detail below and naturally, we will try our utmost to schedule a field trip subject to the Committee's availability.

Depending on the Committee's schedule, we could visit a Deployment Area, such as Kilcoole; and we would also have the option of visiting the NBI offices in Citywest to see the Network Operation Centre and meet the wider team.

1. We will pick a local Deployment Area (such as Kilcoole) and nominate a meeting point at a mutually agreeable date / time.

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Registered in Ireland. Company Number: 631656
Directors: D. McCourt (American), M. Adams (American), P. Haran, B. Gray, H. Akhavan (American),
M. Sönmez (German), A. McCullen, D. McCauley, W.D. Scott (American).

After welcomes and introductions, there would be a short health and safety briefing and PPE (hard-hats / hi-vis) would be issued.

2. Formal tour would commence with members travelling in a bus with NBI staff.

NBI vehicles will flank the bus and lead the members on a multi-stop tour to demonstrate various aspects of the build. At appropriate locations, members would disembark the bus and a verbal briefing would be delivered with ample time for Q&A.

The types of works, for example, would be co-Locations works (local data centre), underground works, accessing third party chambers, building NBI enclosures in chambers, locations where we move from underground to overground, tree trimming etc.

This element could take 2 ½ to 3 hours depending on the level of questioning.

3. Depending on members schedule, we could offer a visit to NBI offices in Citywest to meet the wider team and visit our Network Operations Centre from which network monitoring and control is managed.

I'd allocate 1 ½ hours for this element.

Please let us know if you would welcome the opportunity to join our teams in the field or alternatively, please let me know if you have any queries in relation to this.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Beirne

Niall Beirne
Head of Communications & Stakeholder Engagement
National Broadband Ireland