

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 06 January 2010 17:46
To: ,
Subject: Fwv: Severe wweather inter-Departmental Meeting 7.1.2010

From: KILLIAN Kay
Sent: 06 January 2010 17:29
To: 'sean_brogan@environ.ie'; 'brian_brogan@education.gov.ie'; 'andy.irving@agriculture.gov.ie'; 'stephan.hall@defence.irigov.ie'; 'gerald.fleming@met.ie'; 'john.kennedy@taoiseach.gov.ie'; 'philip.namell@taoiseach.gov.ie'; 'fergal_goodman@health.irigov.ie'; 'ross_hathaway@health.irigov.ie'; KEANEY Doreen; MULLANEY Dominic
Cc: MANGAN Pat
Subject: Severe Weather Inter-Departmental Meeting 7.1.2010




2010.01.07 Agenda
for Severe W...

Severe Weather Inter-Departmental Meeting

In view of the deteriorating weather conditions, we propose to convene a further Inter-Departmental meeting at 11.30 on Thursday 7 January in the first floor conference room of the Department of Transport, Dublin 2. The provisional agenda for the meeting will be:

1. Review of Current Situation
 - (a) weather report and forecast
 - (b) current transport situation
 - (c) impact on other sectors
 - schools
 - environment sector (homeless, water, refuse)
 - emergency services (esp. health)
 - agriculture/rural
2. Decisions on any further emergency response to current situation.

Pat Mangan
Assistant Secretary
6 January 2010



SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 04 January 2010 17:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: for info...

Minister

for your info...

Veronica

MONDAY 04 Jan 10 Dempsey must take full blame for road gritting fiasco - McEntee

Lack of grit goes all the way to the top

Leinster House
Dublin 2
Ireland

Contact
Nick Miller
0866992080

Shane McEntee TD
Road Safety Spokesman

Dempsey's road gritting fiasco - McEntee

Transport Minister Noel Dempsey must take the full blame for the Christmas road gritting fiasco for failing to co-ordinate a centralised nationwide response, Fine Gael Road Safety Spokesman Shane McEntee TD has said.

With weather set to get even worse over the next week, commuters going back to work and schools re-opening, Deputy McEntee called on Minister Dempsey and the Government to get their act together to prevent the crisis returning.

This is now the third week of severe weather conditions. Lives have been lost over the festive period and more will be jeopardised unless concerted action is taken to keep the roads passable. Yet the Government's response is marked by a stunning silence and a lack of action.

Shane McEntee TD is a member of the Joint Ministerial Committee on the Environment and has been vocal in his criticism of the Government's response.

Shane McEntee TD can be contacted on 0866992080 or via email at shane.mcentee@finegal.ie

congratulate themselves. Huge swathes of the country have been isolated and literally frozen out.

"With commuters going back to work and schools back this week, it is vital that something is done now. It's not good enough for the NRA to announce that additional gritting material will be provided over the next two weeks. The Government should immediately:

- Put one body in charge of overseeing the national response;
- Conduct an immediate audit of all grit supplies;
- Assess the state of all significant roads, both national and regional, on an ongoing basis;
- Plan ahead for the next week and month.

"In the longer term the Government should ensure that local authorities stockpile sufficient quantities of grit to deal with future emergencies.

"It's only January, yet this type of weather could potentially continue until March. Constructive plans need to be put in place to keep all road users safe and allow them to go about their business. Above all, we need a Minister for Transport who's on top of his job."

Kind Regards,

Suzanne Altman

Press Office

Email: suzannealtman@transport.ie

Phone: (01) 6041190

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 06 January 2010 17:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Severe Weather Inter-Departmental Meeting 7.1.2010

From: KILLIAN Kay
Sent: 06 January 2010 17:29
To: 'sean_hogan@environ.ie'; 'brian_brogan@education.gov.ie'; 'andy.irving@agriculture.gov.ie'; 'stephan.hall@defence.irigov.ie'; 'gerald.fleming@met.ie'; 'john.kennedy@taoiseach.gov.ie'; 'philip.hamell@taoiseach.gov.ie'; 'fergal_goodman@health.irigov.ie'; 'ross_hathaway@health.irigov.ie'; KEANEY Doreen; MULLANEY Dominic
Cc: MANGAN Pat
Subject: Severe Weather Inter-Departmental Meeting 7.1.2010



2010.01.07 Agenda
for Severe W...

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 10:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Attached statement from Aer Lingus: United Airlines Code Share Agreement - 7th January 2010
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

Aer Lingus Group plc

ISE: EIL1

LSE: AERL

United Airlines Code Share Agreement

Dublin, 07 January 2010: Aer Lingus Group plc ("Aer Lingus") today formalized its code-share agreement with United Airlines to jointly operate scheduled service between Washington Dulles and Madrid, Spain. The service will launch March 28th and it is anticipated that additional routes may be made available for sale during 2010 to commence operation in Summer 2011.

Both carriers will equally share the commercial and operational benefits and risk, with Aer Lingus managing the operational aspects of the new partnership services and United Airlines taking responsibility for managing revenue generation. The Partnership route structure will be sold under both Aer Lingus and United Airlines codes and will leverage both parties' network capabilities.

ENDS

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..For low fares and great deals on hotels, car hire and travel insurance
visit <http://www.aerlingus.com>

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Aer Lingus Limited
Registered in Ireland
Company Number 9215
Registered Office at Dublin Airport, Dublin, Ireland.

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 10:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re: Bus services

-----Original Message-----

From: HUMPHREYS Jim
Sent: 07 January 2010 10:17
To: SCANLAN Veronica; FITZPATRICK Sean; KEANEY Doreen; MURPHY Joan; Secretary General's Office (Transport); RYAN Caroline; MULLANEY Dominic
Subject: RE: Re: Bus services

BE has advised that conditions very bad in Fingal & parts of Dublin city, and in Wexford/Bunclody area Expressway operating but services to secondary locations badly affected. BE left Bus Aras open last night for stranded bus users & also paid for accommodation for some hardship cases. (It is not publicising this.) BE expect conditions to worsen over course of day.

J.H.

-----Original Message-----

From: HUMPHREYS Jim
Sent: 07 January 2010 08:09
To: SCANLAN Veronica; FITZPATRICK Sean; KEANEY Doreen; MURPHY Joan; Secretary General's Office (Transport); RYAN Caroline
Subject: RE: Re: Bus services

Company reports FYI.

THURSDAY 7 January BUS EIREANN

Road conditions in the east of the country continue to be very icy this morning. Most commuter services in the east of the country into Dublin are currently operating this morning with delays. Local services operating on secondary roads are expected to be disrupted. Majority of services outside of the east of the country are operating with delays in some areas.

The following services are operating with delays:

100X Dublin-Dundalk
101 Dublin-Drogheda
109 Cavan-Dublin
100 Drogheda-Dundalk - serving main road stops only

The following services are suspended until further notice:

163 - Dublin-Donore
122 - Drogheda-Andee
186 - Drogheda-Fogher
139 - Dublin-Clogher
190 - Drogheda-Laytown
173 - Drogheda Town Service
168 - Dundalk Annagassan suspended
Kilrush Dublin
Athy, Dublin

DUBLIN BUS

Thursday 7th January 2010

Dublin Bus are operating a full service on Thursday 7th January. However there are a number of areas where conditions are still poor and curtailments are in place. these are listed below.

Last Updated 08:05

Curtailments currently in place:

- 3 - terminating at Viscount Pub, Swords Road
- 7 - from City Centre to Cherrywood only
- 11/a/b - not serving Wadelai, terminating at DCU
- 13 - only using main roads, not serving Ikea, Sillogue, Poppintree and Coultry
- 13a - only using main roads, not serving Poppintree, Shangan and Ikea
- 14/a - from City Centre to Dundrum only
- 15 - to Spawell Roundabout only
- 16/a - not serving Santry/Beaumont terminating at Omni and going to Nutgrove Avenue instead of Grange Road
- 17a - not serving Clonshaugh
- 18 - From Sandymount to Cherry Orchard Hospital
- 19/a - not serving Tolka Estate and terminating at Walkinstown Roundabout
- 20b - not serving terminus at Maryfield
- 25 - not serving Dodsboro, Lucan
- 25a - from City Centre to Penny Hill Pub Outer Ring Road
- 27 - not serving Coolock/Darndale
- 27b - not serving Castletimon and Clonshaugh
- 29a - not serving Raheny and St. Annes
- 31/b - to Howth Station only
- 32/b - not serving Abbey Park
- 37 - not serving Blackhorse Avenue

- 38 - not serving Mulhuddart, Ballycoolin and Castleknock using Castlecurragh Road
- 40/a - using Mellows Road and Finglas Road and terminating at 17a terminus
- 40d - not serving Blanchardstown Corporate Business Park, terminating at shops on main road at Tyrellstown Estate
- 42 - not serving Seabury
- 42b - via Malahide Road to Blunden Drive not serving Gracefield Road, Harmonstown Road and Funglegree Road
- 44 - from City Centre to Dundrum only
- 44b - to Blue Church in Kiltoran only

45 - to Bray Station only

46a - from City Centre to Stillorgan only

47 - from Donnybrook to Belarmine Roundabout only

48a - from City Centre to Dundrum only

49 - to Spawell Roundabout only

50 - from City Centre to Walkinstown Roundabout

51b/c - from City Centre to Red Cow only

53 - not serving East Wall staying on main roads

54a - to Balrothery via Wainsfort Road not using Fortfield Road

56/a - from City Centre to Walkinstown Roundabout

65 - to Spawell Roundabout only

65b - to Spawell Roundabout only

66/b - not serving Lucan

66a - not serving Lucan and Captains Hill, terminating at Louisa Bridge

67/a - not serving Lucan

68 - from City Centre to Red Cow only

69 - from City Centre to Red Cow only

75 - from Dun Laoghaire to Spawell Roundabout

76 - to Ballyfermot Church

77/a - from City Centre to Walkinstown Roundabout

78a - from City Centre to Cherry Orchard Hospital only

79/a - not serving Spiddal Park and Parkwest, terminating at Cherry Orchard Hospital

83 - via Glasanaon Road, Griffith Avenue and Mobhi Road

84 - from City Centre to Bray Station only

102 - not serving Seabury and Forest Road

114 - from Kilcross to Blackrock Station

120 - using Fassaugh Avenue to 121 terminus

122 - using Quarry Road and terminating at Halfway House pub, Navan Road

123 - to and from Marino via Philipsburgh Avenue to Walkinstown Roundabout instead of Kilmoghagh Road

128- not serving Clongriffin, terminating at Donaghmede Roundabout

145 - to Bray Station only

146 - not serving Red, turning at Jamestown Roundabout

149 - to Walkinstown Roundabout

151 - to Walkinstown Roundabout only
185 - from Bray to Enniskerry Village only

220 - to Ladyswell not serving Mulhuddart using Castlecurragh Road

238 - using Ballycoolin Road

-----Original Message-----

From: HUMPHREYS Jim
Sent: 06 January 2010 09:35
To: SCANLAN Veronica; FITZPATRICK Sean; KEANEY Doreen; MURPHY Joan
Subject: Re: Bus services

Bus Eireann Service Update 6th Jan 2010 7.30am

The majority of Bus Eireann services are operating as normal this morning with some delays.

However due to continuing adverse weather and road conditions, the following services are affected:

In Leinster, 103 not operating between Ashbourne and Ratoath. Route 111 not serving Kildakey and not operating between Granard and Castlepollard. Route 163 Dublin-Donore is cancelled for the morning. Dublin-Clogher (189) is also cancelled this morning. 166 Dundalk-Cavan will operate to Carrickmacross only. 175 Monaghan-Cavan 0800 service will not serve Coothill.

In Cork, there are diversions on some services operating from the city to the county.

Bus Eireann will continue to monitor this situation closely and have advised customers to contact their local travel office for information on individual services or visit www.buseireann.ie.

DUBLIN BUS

Wednesday 6th January 2010

Dublin Bus are operating a full service on Wednesday 6th January. However there are a number of areas where conditions are still poor and curtailments are in place, these are listed below

Last Updated 08:50

Curtailments currently in place:

8 - terminating at Viscount Pub, Swords Road

9 - from City Centre to Cherrywood only

11 - not serving Wexford, terminating at DCU

13 - not serving Béal

15 - not serving Saggart and Béal

16 - not serving Ficks Lane

20b - not serving terminus at Maryfield

27b - not serving Castletimon

37 - not serving Blackhorse Avenue

38 a - not serving Ballycoolin Industrial Estate using Ballycoolin Road

40d - not serving Ballycoolin Industrial Estate using Ballycoolin Road and not serving Blanchardstown Corporate Business Park, terminating at shops on main road at Tyrellstown Estate.

42b - via Malahide Road to Blunden Drive not serving Gracefield Road, Harmonstown Road and Tonglegee Road.

44 - to Blue Church in Kiltarnan only

44b - to Blue Church in Kiltarnan only

50 - not serving Killinarden Heights

51 - starting from Molloy's in Clondalkin Village

51b/c - not serving Dutch Village/Woodford using Monastery Road

53 - not serving East Wall staying on main roads

54a- via Wainsfort Road not serving Fortfield Road

56-a - not serving Ballymount and Kingswood

65 - to Blessington Roundabout not serving Tallaght Village or Ballymore Eustace

65b - not serving Tallaght Village and Killinarden Heights

66a - not serving Captains Hill and Lucan Village

69 - not serving St. Johns Wood Estate

77-a - terminating at Cheeverstown Road

79 a - not serving Spiddal Park and Parkwest, terminating at Cherry Orchard Hospital

102 - not serving Forest Road

110 - using Fassaugh Avenue to 121 terminus

112 - using Quarry Road and terminating at Halfway House pub, Navan Road

123 - on Philippsburgh Avenue to Walkinstown Roundabout instead of Kilmacanogue Road

140 - not serving Ikea, turning at Jamestown Roundabout

145- not serving Kilarney Lane, Herbert Road and Kilbride Lane. (Operating Up & Down Kilarney Road)

149 - not serving Millgate Drive

151 - not serving Adamstown, at Griffeen turning right and going to Superquinn Lucan

185 - from Bray to N11 not serving Enniskerry and Shop River

220 - not serving Ballycoolin Industrial Estate using Ballycoolin Road

238 - using Ballycoolin Road

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 14:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Current actions on weather
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: MULLANEY Dominic
Sent: 07 January 2010 14:09
To: KEANEY Doreen; MANGAN Pat; KILLIAN Kay; O'MAHONY Tom; SCANLAN Veronica; 'pmaher@nra.ie'
Subject: FW: Current actions on weather
Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Denis Twomey [mailto:dtwomey@lgma.ie]
Sent: 07 January 2010 11:44
To: john.tierney@dublincity.ie
Cc: MULLANEY Dominic; Anne O Keeffe
Subject: Current actions on weather
Importance: High

Dear John/Dominic

Please find set out below the current actions of local authorities in relation to the weather:

Current actions on weather

Based on responses for a number of local authorities collated by the Office for Local Authority Management, 7 January 2009.

1. Are there particular actions you are taking locally (in addition to what could be described as "normal") which are working effectively and are worth sharing with others (the example has been used of Donegal giving material to locals to use etc);

Carlow

- Have commissioned a number of fertiliser spreaders on the back of local authority trucks
- Have hired, through their plant hire contractor, these trucks also to treat black spots that would not ordinarily be on the grid
- Have acquired bag salt (which is more expensive than the regular salt) in 20 kg bags and this has been useful

Cavan

- Have been making material available for collection by members of the public to do gritting etc., but have had to discontinue because of erosion of stocks.
- People in urban estates need to be encouraged to clear their own footpaths: need to put some responsibility back on individuals
- Use all opportunities to advise people how to drive and walk: there a real lack of experience of driving in these conditions and a need for a public awareness campaign -- RSA -- on this- both nationally and locally

09 03 2010

Cork City

- Are gritting all main and city centre roads and footpaths daily;
- Are salting roads every night;
- Have a low supply of salt. Will run into difficulty if the weather continues into the weekend

Galway City

- Are gritting all main and city centre roads and pedestrianised area daily and effectively;
- Are mixing grit with sand to extend its use
- Are now concentrating on school runs and higher less frequently used roads
- Are facilitating local issues – e.g. clearing roads in housing estates if there are funerals etc: highly visible and appreciated
- Have made stocks of grit available at cemeteries for car parking and related needs.

Galway County

- Are carrying out a comprehensive gritting/salting campaign on County Roads;
- meeting with the other emergency/welfare organizations at 2.30 today to discuss any possible deficiencies or unanticipated problems arising from the weather difficulties;
- Have 9 gritters and crews fulltime salting the National Road network and heavily trafficked Regional Routes. These crews are mobilized centrally from headquarters
- Have more than 20 crews based in the local Engineering Areas gritting less trafficked Regional and Local Routes. These are controlled locally and are more responsive to local difficulties.
- Have notified the public via local radio that the Engineering Areas are available to deal with issues like emergency access;
- All outdoor staff are working exclusively on the weather related issues, dealing with emergency road repairs, watermain bursts;
- Not supplying salt or grit to private individual but if they have a genuine emergency we encourage them to contact their local Area Office

Kildare

- All resources out – manpower and plant: some concern about ability to keep the manpower going – given the fact that the same staff have been on response duty since the flooding effectively;
- Operating on a day to day basis – ok just now for salt but a need for accurate information on the salt situation to be assembled and coordinated nationally and to be conveyed accurately in the media;
- The weekend could be ominous for supplies;
- If grit is made available there are potential consequences – prioritizing, competition for scarce resources etc; maybe local dissatisfaction – needs to be handled carefully.
- Maybe use the army for hardship cases; isolated communities etc; farmers etc;
- Clear need for local coordination to keep towns open and moving – principally LA with local Garda etc.

Louth

The main (only) issue is the lack of available salt, which is preventing Councils from maintaining the national and regional routes as part of their planned winter maintenance. If salt was available we would have extended our runs to cover some county roads at this stage, and alleviated most of the hardship being experienced.

WE should not react to the pressure building up and allow initiatives such as the Donegal example given. While it is good PR, its effectiveness needs to be questioned. While it may do little damage in rural areas, it can have a major impact on piped drainage systems. The salt used will dissolve, while sand will remain, to block drainage systems.

There is a danger that the agricultural contractors etc. will be employed on a large scale basis to help clear roads, but with what?

On the issue of salt, we are investigating buying salt from a miller in Drogheda. Very expensive at €175 plus

haulage, but it might be a source that has not been considered.

Mayo

Current Position:

- Struggling with supplies of salt: will have to buy lower quality at higher price to maintain supply;
- Are making grit available to local communities and will extend this;
- Set up an emergency number through CAMP to deal with hardship cases but there is Mixing more salt and grit: but this is clearly less effective;
- A need for greater coordination between different agencies to ensure effective response to needs: e.g. HSE etc: 4 wheel drive vehicles necessary.
- The critical issue is SALT – both the amount that is needed and concern about the budgetary impact that will inevitably follow.

Monaghan

Salt stocks need to be sourced and purchased centrally by the Department of Transport/NRA and distributed to councils in proportion to the National Roads. We can spread grit on Regional and Local Roads if necessary.

At present we are keeping the NRA informed of our situation but we are having problems with reliability of supply and it is clear that Monaghan County Council will run out of salt at the weekend.

North Tipperary

- They are salting national and regional roads – priority
- Had to stop salting some regional roads (lack of stocks)
- /Are responding to specific hardship cases – e.g. hospital appointments etc., but only on request
- There is an urgent need for a national coordination of the salt issue – rather than having each LA begging, queue jumping etc.

Offaly

Mixed messages getting onto AA roadwatch. Suggest authorised bulletin from each LA- pref by engineer responsible for icecast.

Who will carry insurance risk for farmers using grit on public roads?
I.e. - a loose stone mitting someone.

Funding will be an issue. Will DOT cover?

Sligo

- having major problems in sourcing supplies of salt;

Normal winter maintenance consists mostly of preventative maintenance to deal with normal Irish winter conditions. We also respond to snowfalls which are of short duration and our budgets for winter maintenance which compete with all other local authority services reflect this. We have capacity in plant and staff to deal with situations like what we have now but the issue is the availability of the appropriate materials ie salt and of course finance. Essentially local authorities must balance an appropriate response against cost. An appropriate response should be determined at a national level and local authorities funded accordingly. Response should concentrate on getting people to work and school and allowing people to continue to carry on normal economic activity including essential services eg education health etc. Non essential activities should be suspended.

In county like sligo difficulty in serving dispersed and sometimes isolated population. Public expectations need to be managed. Only a certain level of response possible. Need for local communities to help themselves with support from local authorities.

South Dublin

- All resources are currently deployed in gritting of roads on the Council's Gritting Schedule.
- 350km of the Council's 1,000km are on the schedule.
- Gritting takes place at 7.00 pm and 5.00 am (subject to availability of salt and grit).
- Council has 8 Gritters (entire fleet) on continuous use.
- We are responding to Gardai and Dublin Bus and consulting with neighbouring authorities.
- Daily press releases.
- Weather warnings and ongoing information daily on the Council Website.
- Traffic Management Centre and live updates are available on the Web and SMS Traffic information also available.
- All schools advised to keep in touch with Council Website and Press Releases for weather forecasts and Council's ongoing response.
- Council mobilising outdoor staff to begin addressing clearing of ice and snow from footpaths.

Waterford City Council

Specific actions undertaken would be similar to Donegal but in an urban context – we've delivered supplies of gritting material to a number of suburban housing estates as the request of resident's associations who've voluntarily spread the material.

Westmeath

The main pressures on Westmeath County Council are the maintenance of water supplies and the gritting of major roads.

The main problem we have that would benefit from some level of national coordination is the supply of salt. As I see it, all local authorities are badgering the same few suppliers for salt and it is impossible for the suppliers to identify the priority counties. Perhaps a small group could be established at national level to coordinate the delivery of salt based on real priorities. Not an easy job I know as everyone thinks their area is a priority but the current situation is not really satisfactory. We have people on the phone constantly seeking salt supplies and I'm sure this is the case everywhere.

In terms of those supplies, we have enough salt to last until Saturday only and will be out thereafter unless we receive deliveries. We need 100 tonnes per application and currently treat once per day. We therefore need a further 700 tonnes to last one week from this Saturday, January 9th.

2. What additional actions should be taken in your view, and by whom, to assist in alleviating the situation?

Carlow

- Limiting factors at play here:
 - Amount of salt available
 - Number of staff available
 - Number of trucks
- Civil defence have been on standby in Carlow along with the fire service for emergencies rather than spreading salt
- Regarding the army – it is important at a national level to decide what they could be used for and how quickly they could be mobilised?

Galway City

Water is a major problem: people running taps at night etc: this needs to be highlighted nationally; also the need for landlords to check presumes etc: they have engaged in a PR campaign locally and it is showing results

They are meeting with the HSE, Garda etc. today.

Louth

On the way ahead, we need to get more salt into the country to maintain the national and regional routes.

Monaghan

1. Monaghan County Council is making salt and grit available to the public at the Machinery Yard in Monaghan at present. From today that may be confined to grit as salt stocks are critical. We also have salt bins at various town locations. We are giving grit to farmers to spread on their lanes to facilitate milk collection and deliveries.

The Department/NRA should ensure that ports/customs and salt mines remain open through the weekend to ensure that salt supplies and production continue through the weekend. Salt supplies should be fast-tracked through customs

Sligo

Need for other public agencies also to help themselves. Eg local request from HSE to grit outside all their premises. HSE should have strategic plans to deal with situations like this. Also local businesses. I remember when each shopowner used to clear the footpath outside their own premises. Should this not continue to happen.

South Dublin

- As some difficulties are being experienced in procuring sand now as well as salt gritting materials are getting very scarce and difficult to procure it is recommended that consideration be given to some limited extraction and use of beach sand.
- Where public transport services are being curtailed that service providers be instructed to terminate (where possible) at another functioning service i.e. buses to terminate at Luas/Dart/Mainline Rail etc. stops only.
- Consideration to be given to using additional resources (Army, civil defence etc) to clear footpaths of ice etc

Waterford City Council

Our main concerns over the next week or so would be securing supplies of gritting salt – while we received some this week like many LAs we would only have 3 – 4 days supply. However we've also managed to locate a local supply of food grade salt which we're investigating at the minute – it's more than twice the price of road salt and there may be other sources such as food / meat processors around the country with stocks

Kind regards,

Denis

Denis Twomey

Office for Local Authority Management (OLAM)

Local Government Management Services Board

35-39 Ushers Quay, Dublin 8

Phone (01) 643 8400 / Fax (01) 643 8401

Email: dtwomey@lgma.ie

www.lgma.ie

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Comments by Taoiseach on Severe Weather

-----Original Message-----

Comments by Taoiseach on Severe Weather

The Taoiseach and Ministers were briefed this morning on the response to the severe weather situation. The Taoiseach has asked the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to arrange that his Department will lead the coordinated response through the National Emergency Response Committee.

Weather of this severity and duration has not been seen since 1963 in many parts of Ireland. The principal problem is compacted ice. Significant thaw is not forecast by Met Eireann for at least 6 or 7 day, and there is a risk of further snowfall in the west today and in the east and south from Sunday onwards.

Since the weather deteriorated three weeks ago, local authorities have mobilised their staff to keep national and other priority roads, including public transport routes, open for traffic. These roads carry over 50% of total national traffic and are the key economic arteries for the delivery of goods, foodstuffs and fuel. Local authorities would generally have 10 days supply of salt for gritting. Stocks are continuing to be replenished, but the supply situation is very tight due to high international demand. Available supplies will continue to be used to treat priority roads. The NRA has been asked to coordinate supply arrangements nationwide.

Local authorities are mobilising all of their available resources to address the current difficulties. The Defence Forces have mobilised staff and equipment which can be made available to local authorities on request. Minister Ó Tuiv has directed that personnel from the Rural Social Scheme be made available to assist locally.

Some local authorities have already made arrangements to make supplies of grit available to local communities. All local authorities are being asked to consider the scope for doing this where it is appropriate to local circumstances and does not compromise the gritting strategy for national roads.

Local authorities have confirmed that they are utilising the arrangements set out in their local emergency plan to address emergencies, hardship and other difficulties being faced by local communities, particularly in rural areas. Such arrangements should include at least a daily review meeting/conference call of senior local authority, Garda and HSE officials.

It goes without saying that people should be good neighbours during this continuing poor weather by visiting elderly and other housebound people and ensuring that they have adequate food and heating supplies. Motorists should avoid any unnecessary journeys and heed the RSA's advice on driving in the snow and ice.

The Committee also reviewed the impact on sectors other than transport. It is a matter for individual Boards of Management to decide whether local weather conditions and other factors, such as road access, availability of school transport, etc warrant closure of a school in the interests of pupil and teacher health and safety. Local authorities and the Garda Síochána are asked to provide advice to Boards when requested to do so.

Other services such as health, water supply etc., while affected by severe weather are coping well. Any local problems will be dealt with through the local co-ordination arrangements.

The Taoiseach has asked the Committee to meet daily until the severe weather abates, to address emerging issues and ensure whole of Government support for the local emergency response.

Tá Roinn an Taoisigh meáite ar seilbhís phróisisiúnta, éireachtach agus chúirtéiseach a sholáthar dár gcustaiméirí go léir. Chun amharc ar an chairt do chustaiméirí, clliceáil ar <http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/irish/index.asp?docID=1703>

Is le bhaghaidh an duine nó an aonáin ar seoladh dó/di an t-eolas a seachadadh, agus d'fhéadadh ábhar faoi rún agus/nó ábhar faoi phribhléid a bheith istigh leis. Tá cosc ar aon athbhreithniú, athsheachadadh, scaipeadh faisnéise nó aon úsáid eile den eolas seo ag aon aonáin eile seachas an faighteoir beartaithe, nó aon ghníomh a thógáil i dtuilleamaí an eolais seo. Má fuair tú seo de bharr earráide, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríob an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil. Is é polasaí Roinn an Taoisigh cosc a chur ar ábhar maslach a sheoladh, agus más rud é go gceapann tú go bhfuil an t-ábhar istigh leis an teachtaireacht seo maslach ba cheart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir ar an bpointe agus le www.taoiseach.gov.ie freisin.

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SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 18:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Circular RLR 2/2010

Importance: High

Subject: Circular RLR 2/2010
Importance: High

Dear County/City Manager,

Please see attached circular in relation to Winter Maintenance of roads.

Regards,

Bronagh Treacy.



RLR 02 of 2010
Winter Maintena...

Bronagh Treacy
Roads Division
Department of Transport
5th Floor
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

[REDACTED]

Further to our circular of 6th January 2010, I now wish to advise you of the following decisions of the Emergency Response Committee, which met this morning:-

1. Salt Supplies

The overall supply of salt is inadequate, having regard to the forecast weather. Therefore the stock of salt must be managed nationally so that the priority of keeping national and other priority roads and public transport routes accessible. Consequently, the NRA has been asked to co-ordinate arrangements in relation to the management of salt stocks across the country and you are asked to co-operate with the decisions of the Authority in this regard. The NRA will work through established contacts in local authorities.

2. Local Co-ordination

All local authorities are asked to maximise co-ordination in order to deal with priorities and emergencies. In this regard the Defence Forces have mobilised equipment, which can be made available to local authorities on request. This includes the provision of helicopters, four wheel drive vehicles, drivers and purpose personnel.

3. Grit

Some local authorities have already made arrangements to make supplies of grit available to local communities. All local authorities are asked to consider the possibility of doing this where it is appropriate to local circumstances and does not compromise the national gritting strategy for national roads.

Subsequent to the meeting this morning, it has been noted that some local authorities are already using hired tractors with lime-spreaders attached to spread grit on roads which are not on their priority runs. Local authorities may wish to consider if this could be an appropriate option on some of their non priority roads with hard packed surfaces (not topped with ice) where people need to access shops and services and are experiencing particular difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

Doreen Keaney
Roads Division
Department of Transport

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 07 January 2010 18:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: NECC meeting 8.01.2010

Importance: High



2010.01.08 Agenda
for Severe W... Minister

for your information

Veronica
7 January 2010

-----Original Message-----

From: KILLIAN Kay
Sent: 07 January 2010 18:38
To: 'sean_hogan@environ.ie'; 'brian_brogan@education.gov.ie';
'andy.irving@agriculture.gov.ie'; 'stephan.hall@defence.irlgov.ie';
'gerald.fleming@met.ie'; 'john.kennedy@taoiseach.gov.ie';
'philip.hamell@taoiseach.gov.ie'; 'fergal_goodman@health.irlgov.ie';
'ross_hathaway@health.irlgov.ie'; KEANEY Doreen; MULLANEY Dominic;
'john.tierney@dublincity.ie'; 'michael.phillips@dublincity.ie';
'dmwoods@justice.ie'; FITZPATRICK Sean; RYAN Caroline; 'pmaher@nra.ie'
CC: MANGAN Pat; 'aokeeffe@lgmsb.ie'; SCANLAN Veronica; O'MAHONY Tom
Subject: NECC meeting 8.01.2010

Please find attached on behalf of Sean Hogan, DEHLG and Pat Mangan, D.Transport the agenda for next inter-Departmental meeting of the severe emergency inter-Departmental which is taking place on Fri 8/1 at 11.30am in Agriculture House.

Regards and Thanks

Kay Killian

**Severe Weather Emergency
8 January 2010 @ 11.30 hrs
NECC,
Agriculture House**

Agenda

- 1 Introduction & Working Arrangements**
- 2 Current Situation**
 - a. Weather Report and Forecast
 - b. Transport Sector
 - c. Other Sectors
 - i. Education
 - ii. Environment
 - iii. Agriculture
 - d. Media Coverage
- 3 Emerging Issues**
 - a. Snow threat
 - b. Salt supply
 - c. Schools
 - d. Emergency Services
 - e. Medical Access
 - f. Community/ voluntary sector engagement
 - g. Elderly
- 4 Extending the Response beyond National Primary Routes?**
 - a. Gritting of iced roads
 - b. Footpaths
 - c. Engaging Community: Business Sector
 - d. Defence Forces
- 5 Public Information**
- 6 Safety Messages**
- 7 Recap of Decisions**
- 8 AoB**

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 08 January 2010 11:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Bus Eireann Service Update 8th Jan 2010 9.45am

Minister

for your information.

Thank you

Veronica

-----Original Message-----

From: HUMPHREYS Jim
Sent: 08 January 2010 11:42
To: SCANLAN Veronica; Secretary General's Office (Transport); FITZPATRICK Sean; CONRY Simon; MURPHY Joan; MULLANEY Dominic; KEANEY Doreen
Subject: FW: Bus Eireann Service Update 8th Jan 2010 9.45am

EMAIL below for info.

BE has also advised that it ran all services last night incl. late night Expressway services even with low passenger numbers(which means increased operational losses), that conditions particularly difficult in Fingal/ Blanchardstown area in Dublin & in Wexford/Waterford/Cionmel areas, that BE working well with LAs (except Galway City Council) to maintain services , that BE providing accomodation for drivers out of home base in order to maintain services & that maintenance of services being also impacted by frozen water supplies to some garages (e.g Broadstone).BE expect Sunday/Monday, based on forecasts, to be very difficult.
J.H.

-----Original Message-----

From: McLindon Andrew [mailto:Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie]
Sent: 08 January 2010 09:49
To: McLindon Andrew
Subject: Bus Eireann Service Update 8th Jan 2010 9.45am

Road conditions in the east of the country continue to be very icy this morning. The vast majority of commuter services in the east of the country into Dublin are currently operating this morning with some delays. Local services operating on secondary roads are expected to be disrupted.

The majority of services in the rest of the country are operating with delays in some areas.

The following services are cancelled at the moment:

Dublin-Waterford 10 30. The rest of Dublin-Waterford and Dublin-Rosslare services are operating as normal with some delays.

102 Ardcath-Dublin

118 Kilican-Dublin

163 Drogheda/Donore

189 Drogheda/Grangebellew

190 Drogheda/Laytown

There is a limited service on the 173 Drogheda Town Service (North and South)

There is disruption and delays to some services in Cork county. The 246, 247, 248 services

Page 2 of 2

d and there are diversions on the 230 and 234 services.

so delays and disruption to a small number of services in West Clare.

will continue to monitor this situation closely and we would advise customers
eir local travel office for information on individual services or visit
ann.ie.

would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

on on Dublin Bus services, please visit www.dublinbus.ie. For information on
please visit www.irishrail.ie.

would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

on
a and PR

9 (d)
3 9601
n@buseireann.ie

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 08 January 2010 11:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 8th Jan update - Driving Tests

Minister

for your information

Veronica

-----Original Message-----

From: Noel Brett [mailto:NoelBrett@rsa.ie]
Sent: 08 January 2010 08:50
To: MULLEN Maurice
Cc: seanfitzpartick@transport.ie; SCANLAN Veronica; Declan Naughton
Subject: FW: 8th Jan update - Driving Tests

Maurice

In case you get any queries we are into our third week of disruption to driving tests
Please find attached the update for driving tests today 8th January - this will be updated during the day on www.drivingtest.ie . Thankfully we installed new technology in late 2009 and we can now text customers directly. Text messages have been sent to people where tests are definitely called off for tomorrow (i.e. red on the attached spreadsheet).

We are dealing with huge volumes of calls but overall are managing to deal with customer queries.
All of these cancelled tests will add to the waiting time in the short term. Once the adverse weather clears we will be prioritising the longest waits and will be this back to normal as quickly as possible.

Please let me know if you require additional information

Regards

Noel Brett

Noel Brett
CEO

[REDACTED]



SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 08 January 2010 18:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: RTE.ie News Update - LIVE - Weather & transport updates

Original Message-----

08 January 2010 17:48

IRISH NEWS

1. Warning to avoid unnecessary journeys
2. All schools to close until Thursday
3. PSNI officer hurt in car bomb attack
4. Man charged in Garda road death case
5. Aer Lingus to make cuts at Gatwick base
6. St Vincent's Hospital hit by vomiting bug
7. Robinson financial affairs under scrutiny
8. Gardaí rule out arson in cathedral fire probe
9. Number on Live Register up by 3,300
10. Waterford Crystal gallery to close

IRELAND'S WEATHER & BUSINESS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. UK firms told to preserve gas supplies
2. Portugal MPs approve gay marriage
3. Christmas Day bomb suspect due in court
4. Death sentences in Burma over document leak
5. Israel says no more concessions for prisoner

IRISH NEWS

1. Warning to avoid unnecessary journeys

Motorists are again being warned to avoid any unnecessary journeys because of the cold weather. LIVE Travel & Weather updates | List of school closures | AA Roadwatch | Dublin Bus | Bus Éireann | Airports | Met Éireann | Road Safety Authority | Driving advice | Photos from around the country - yourphotos@rte.ie | Computers are also advised that some services are restricted. Roads remain icy nationwide as temperatures dipped to -13C overnight and Met Éireann says the severe weather could last for another ten days. Another spell of snow will affect mainly Leinster and Munster during Sunday and Monday with falls of 1cm to 10cm expected. There is concern that driving conditions may be even more difficult today as local authorities

<http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678681.smil>
One News: Temperatures plummet to -20C in Britain -
<http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678781.smil>
One News: Freezing temperatures affecting rest of Europe -
<http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678885.smil>

2.All schools to close until Thursday

All national and secondary schools are to remain closed until Thursday 14 January, Minister for Education Batt O'Keefe announced this afternoon. The decision was taken following a review of the weekend weather forecast at a meeting of the Government's Emergency Response Committee. The Minister accepts that the closures will cause inconvenience but said the safety of student, teachers and parents was more important. The decision comes amid growing fears among school principals and boards of management about the impact of further severe weather on school communities. It will be widely welcomed by them. Schools have been telling RTÉ News of strong health and safety concerns, centred on footpaths and roads in their wider areas. A decision on whether Ireland's 4,000 schools will remain closed or re-opened later next week will be made following a review by the Committee at a meeting on Tuesday.

3.PSNI officer hurt in car bomb attack

Dissident republicans have been blamed for a car bomb attack in Northern Ireland in which a Catholic police officer was critically injured. The 33-year-old married constable was undergoing emergency surgery in hospital after the device detonated under his vehicle in Co Antrim as he drove to work early this morning. The Irish speaking officer, who is a Gaelic games enthusiast, was on his way to work in west Belfast when the bomb went off at around 6.30am about half a mile from his home in Milltown Road, near Randalstown. Appealing for anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area last night to come forward, Detective Chief Superintendent Derek Williamson branded the attackers 'faceless cowardly thugs'. 'They skulked under the cover of darkness to try and kill or injure this officer,' he said. 'It's too early to know exactly who was responsible but it's likely to have been dissident republicans.' The car bomb went off just miles from Antrim town, where two British soldiers were murdered outside the Massereene barracks by the Real IRA last March. Putting his current personal problems to one side, Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson joined Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness to condemn the attack. Democratic Unionist Party leader Mr Robinson said: 'This is a cowardly, evil act against a man committed to defending the free society we all enjoy. 'I have said in the past that those who perpetrate such attacks will not succeed in returning Northern Ireland to the dark days of the past. I remain steadfastly committed to upholding that promise. There is only one path forward - that of peace and democracy.' Sinn Féin representative Mr McGuinness added: 'The man injured today in this attack contributes positively to the community. 'He is an active member of the GAA and an Irish speaker. He serves the community as a member of the PSNI. 'The people who carried out this attack make no contribution. These actions serve no purpose and will not further any cause. 'My thoughts are with the injured man and his family. I pray he makes a full recovery.' The Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, also hit out at those responsible. 'Today's attack is an act of senseless violence,' he said. 'The people of Ireland have clearly demonstrated their wish for peace and to work through the democratic process. 'This criminal action by a tiny minority is an attack on all of the people of this country. 'They will not succeed in deflecting us from the path of peace in this island. 'I look forward to seeing the perpetrators of this heinous act being brought swiftly to justice. 'Northern Ireland Security Minister Paul Diggins said: 'This vile attack will sicken people across Northern Ireland. 'I applaud the work the PSNI are doing to take our towns and cities safer. 'This attack is in stark contrast to those who tried to murder this officer. 'Those who planned this device are now condemned and anyone with information should bring it to the PSNI so that those responsible can be brought before the courts.'

RTÉ News

The news PSNI officer injured in blast <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678885.smil>

4. Car bomb in north had lethal blast

A car bomb in north had lethal blast

A car bomb in north had lethal blast

Garda Gary McLoughlin last month. Garda McLoughlin died at Lisfannon, Burt, Co Donegal, on 13 December 2009. Martin McDermott of Castlegrove, Raphoe, Co Donegal, was charged with the offence at Letterkenny District court today. He was arrested at the court this morning by Sgt Martin Egan of Buncrana Garda Station. Sgt Egan told the court that Mr McDermott made no reply when charged. He was remanded in custody to appear at Harristown Court on 16 January.

3. Aer Lingus to make cuts at Gatwick base

Aer Lingus has confirmed that it will make cuts at its London Gatwick base as a result of weak consumer demand for air travel. In a trading update, Aer Lingus said it would cut the number of planes it has at Gatwick from five to three from the end of March. The three planes will continue to operate three existing routes to Dublin, Knock and Malaga as well as a new route to Cork. The airline also said that it expects to report a small trading profit - excluding once-off costs - for the second half of 2009. Aer Lingus said this was due to cost cuts and capacity changes implemented during the year, as well as higher than expected average fares. It is currently negotiating with staff on a restructuring plan to save €97m a year. The airline removed some of its long-haul services in September and also cancelled some routes in November. It said that demand for air travel will remain weak for the first half of 2010.

St. Vincent's Hospital hit by vomiting bug

An outbreak of Norovirus commonly referred to as 'Winter Vomiting Bug' is currently affecting 34 patients spread over 10 wards at St Vincent's University Hospital and 27 staff members. To help curtail the spread of the virus within the hospital, St Vincent's is appealing to the public to attend the Emergency Department only if necessary, not to visit patients unless it is absolutely essential, not to enter affected wards, and not to bring children to the hospital. Members of the public who have symptoms such as 'upset stomach' should not attend the hospital, but contact their GP in the first instance if they have serious concerns. Bill Maher, Director of Operations at St Vincent's University Hospital, stated, 'We are taking all appropriate steps to combat the spread of this infection and these visiting restrictions are essential for the health and safety of patients, visitors and staff. The virus appears to be coming in from community and we know from past experience that without the cooperation of the public this virus can spread very quickly throughout the hospital, causing discomfort to patients and further disrupting services. Prospective visitors should not undertake potentially futile journeys, particularly in these weather conditions.'

7. Robinson financial affairs under scrutiny

A BBC programme last night made a number of serious allegations about Iris Robinson, the Westminster and Stormont Assembly politician and wife of Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson. Among the claims was that Mrs Robinson got £50,000 from two Belfast property developers and gave the money to a then 13-year-old man, Kirk McCambley, and asked him for £5,000 back in cash. She and Mr McCambley were having an affair and he was starting a business. Two weeks ago Iris Robinson said she was retiring from politics because of an ongoing battle with mental illness. On Wednesday, her husband Peter Robinson told how he learned last March that she had been having an affair and afterwards she had attempted to take her own life. Last night a BBC Northern Ireland programme made serious allegations about Mrs Robinson. The most potentially damaging claim was that she had sought money from two Belfast property developers. The programme also claimed that Mrs Robinson's husband had become aware of the transactions and that he pressed his wife to return the money. It suggested Iris Robinson broke the law and that her husband also breached Northern Ireland's ministerial code by failing to tell the relevant authorities what he knew. The BBC had twice said earlier for the programme, an activist who worked for Mrs Robinson, text messages she sent him, and the New All party with whom she had a relationship. Mrs Robinson has resigned from public life. These claims say her husband, Peter Robinson, is not legal, saying Mr Robinson has said he will be withdrawing his lawyers about the matter. In a statement, his attorney, he said it completely rejects BBC's allegations, saying he by no means has influence. If he even were involved in the program, he said, he would not have been involved in the program. He said he and his wife were without any support, but he would not have been involved in the program. He said he and his wife were without any support, but he would not have been involved in the program. He said he and his wife were without any support, but he would not have been involved in the program.

earned from spotlight for the first time some alleged aspects of my wife's affair and her financial arrangements, I will be resolutely defending attacks on my character and contesting any allegations of wrongdoing. 'To that end, I will be addressing the media today after I have taken legal advice.' Sinn Féin Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has reacted saying: 'I was shocked at the financial revelations made in last night's Spotlight programme. 'I have sought an urgent meeting with the First Minister to discuss the implications for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.' Speaking on RTE's Morning Ireland, SDLP leader Mark Durkan said the position of Peter Robinson as First Minister was questionable. He also believed that Iris Robinson should resign from her public offices because of the nature of the issues raised in the programme. Ulster Unionist Party leader Reg Empey said it was clear Iris Robinson's continuing position as an MP, MLA and Councillor was utterly untenable. He said she should resign all her positions with immediate effect. Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said that he is 'very, very sympathetic to the plight that the Robinson family have found themselves in'. He went on to say that there 'may be consequences' to the offices of the first and deputy ministers. Speaking on RTE's News At One, Mr Adams said: 'Martin McGuinness has asked a departmental solicitor for a legal opinion.' Mr Adams confirmed that Sinn Féin has temporarily postponed the Ard Comhairle meeting due to take place tomorrow because he said serious matters are on the agenda and the bad weather meant that full attendance could not be guaranteed.

AUDIO:

Morning Ireland: Mark Durkan, SDLP leader, says Iris Robinson should resign from her public offices because of the nature of the issues raised in the BBC Spotlight programme - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678546.smil>

Morning Ireland: Fionnuala O'Connor, The Irish Times, says Iris Robinson is alleged to have got 250,000 from two developers to help her young lover purchase a cafe - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678543.smil>

Morning Ireland: Tommie Gorman, Northern Editor, reports that Peter Robinson is to respond to allegations made in the BBC's Spotlight programme last night - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678553.smil>

News At One: Gerry Adams, President, Sinn Féin, says Peter Robinson's difficulties have become a distraction from the main issue of policing - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678745.smil>

VIDEO:

One News: Michael Fisher reports on allegations made by a man that Iris Robinson had an affair with - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678783.smil>

One News: Tommie Gorman, Northern Editor, reports that NI's First Minister Peter Robinson has said he completely rejects allegations made in a BBC programme - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678690.smil>

9. Gardai rule out arson in cathedral fire probe

Gardai in Longford say that a forensic examination of the burnt out remains of St Mel's Cathedral have now been completed and they are satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the blaze that destroyed the 19th century cathedral on Christmas Day. Inspector Joe McLoughlin said that members of the technical bureau and the local scenes of crime division had removed various items from the cathedral for examination, but he was in a position to say at this stage that there are no suspicions surrounding the cause of the fire. It is understood engineers and insurance assessors have also completed their initial inquiries and their main suspicion as to the cause of the fire are focused on the boiler area at the back of the cathedral.

10. Number on Live Register up by 3,100

New figures from the Central Statistics Office show that the number of people staying on live again last month. The seasonally adjusted Live Register figure rose by 3,100 in December to stand at 426,100 from November's total of 423,000. The figure had fallen to 408,000 for the first time since March 2017. The live register was at 401,000 in June 2016. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 11.9% in December.

11.12

11.12.17 - World Today, Thursday 12th Dec, reports that the 100th anniversary of the

Statistics Office show that the number's signing on last month stood at almost 427,000
- <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678698.smil>

10. Waterford Crystal gallery to close

The Waterford Crystal gallery is to close to the public next month. Workers at the visitor centre received letters this morning telling them that their employment would cease on 5 February. Up to 20 workers at the gallery were on three-month fixed contracts and it is now thought that this announcement ends those contracts ahead of time. It was announced earlier this week that the manufacturing plant at Kilbarry is to be sold.

IRELAND'S WEATHER

NationWide - Tonight

Very cold, frosty this evening and tonight with widespread icy surfaces and some freezing fog. Some hail, sleet and snow at times in parts of the northwest and west this evening, will move down the Atlantic seaboard tonight, but should clear later. A few light hail or snow showers are possible on eastern coasts also. Temperature lows ranging from -10 to 0 Celsius (14 to 32 Fahrenheit)

NationWide - Tomorrow

Very cold and frosty with ice and fog persisting in places. Mostly dry and bright with sunny spells, but a few hail and snow showers may well push onto parts of the east coast at times. Temperature highs ranging from -3 to 3 Celsius (27 to 37 Fahrenheit)

Business News

On the currency markets, the euro traded at US\$1.44, A\$1.56, 133.14 yen and 90 pence sterling. The ISEQ Index figures at close were 1086.75, up 10.23.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. UK firms told to preserve gas supplies

As the cold weather continues, in Britain nearly 100 firms were told to turn off their gas yesterday to help conserve supplies. The National Grid, which operates Britain's gas network, said the gas supply would be restored today for most of the companies as the UK's critical gas position eases. The cold spell has caused a surge in demand for gas. However in Britain that surge came as supplies were hit by technical problems, which led to a shortfall in gas imported from Norway. Those Norwegian supplies have now been restored but the shortage yesterday led the National Grid to ask its big companies and manufacturers to switch from gas to alternative fuels such as coal and oil. All the companies concerned have interruptible contracts which allow their supplier to reduce or cut off their gas at times of high demand. In return the firms pay their gas more cheaply. National Grid issued two gas alerts so far this week asking customers voluntarily to reduce usage as temperatures have plummeted. However, Energy UK, which represents the gas suppliers, says there is no threat to households. Temperatures plummeted to -11C. Temperatures in parts of Britain plummeted to below -11C overnight, with firefighters battling no less in the cold spell as widespread icy conditions disrupted or caused disruption. Some weather warnings remained in place for much of the country with ice and snow and temperatures sinking to near levels. Heavy rain and strong winds were forecast in some areas. Temperatures fell to a low of -11.1C in northern Kent and -10.8C in north Kent. In Northern Ireland, -10.4C was recorded in Fermanagh, and -10.1C in the town of Derry. Thousands of cars by now as the country heads for a bleak winter. A cold wave's path and a low of -10.1C in Northern Ireland and

Northern Ireland if they are unable to reopen amid the continuing cold spell. Thousands of homes across southern England remain without electricity after fallen trees and heavy snowfall affected power lines. Train routes across many parts of the country are disrupted by ice and snow, with rail operators First Great Western, Northern Rail, Virgin Trains, South West Trains and First Capital Connect among those announcing delays and cancellations to services. Eurostar said it would be running a restricted service today and over the weekend due to the severe weather conditions, and asked passengers to cancel or postpone their trips where possible. Major airports such as Heathrow and Gatwick remain open, but delays and cancellations to flights continue with operators advising passengers to check with their airlines before travelling to the airport.

VIDEO:

One News: Brian O'Connell, London Editor, reports that temperatures dropped to as low as -20C in parts of Scotland overnight - <http://dynamic.rte.ie/av/2678782.smil>

2. Portugal MPs approve gay marriage

The Portuguese parliament has approved at first reading a bill to legalise gay marriage but rejected proposals to allow same-sex couples to adopt. The vote went mainly on party lines, with the left-wing majority backing the measure proposed by Prime Minister José Sócrates and the right-wing opposition voting against. It will now be reviewed in committee before coming back for a final vote in parliament. Mr Sócrates said the aim was to remedy decades of injustice towards gays, recalling that as recently as 1982 homosexuality was a crime in Portugal. Parliament also defeated a demand backed by the right for a referendum following a petition which collected more than 30,000 signatures.

3. Christmas Day bomb suspect due in court

The Nigerian man accused of trying to bomb a US airliner is to make his first court appearance today as President Barack Obama ordered a sweeping overhaul of flawed intelligence. The arraignment in Detroit follows the grand jury indictment of Umar Faruk Abdulmutallab, 33, on six counts - including attempted murder and trying to use a weapon of mass destruction aboard a US plane - arising from the botched al-Qaeda plot to blow up Northwest Airlines Flight 253 with 290 people aboard. Mr Obama yesterday declared that 'the buck stops with me' over intelligence shortcomings that led to the thwarted attack, and he unveiled measures including strengthening US watch-lists and boosting airport screening as part of broad orders to close US security gaps. Releasing two reports on the Christmas Day bomb attempt, President Obama said spy agencies did not properly 'connect and understand' disparate data that could have detected the plot as it was planned by an al-Qaeda affiliate in

Yemen. He said the investigations revealed that US analysts knew Mr Abdulmutallab was an extremist and knew al-Qaeda in Yemen was plotting an attack, but could not connect the two strands of intelligence. As critics charged that his administration has been too soft on terror and slow to act after the attack, Mr Obama said the US was 'at war with al-Qaeda' but promised terrorists would not force Americans to adopt a 'siege' mentality. 'I am less interested in passing out blame than I am in learning from and correcting these mistakes to make us safer,' Mr Obama said, signalling there would be no immediate firings of top spy chiefs over the security breakdown. 'Ultimately the buck stops with me. As president, I have a solemn responsibility to protect our nation and our people, and when the system fails, it is my responsibility.' Mr Obama's top anti-terror official John Brennan, however, delivered a personal sea change. 'I told the president today, I let him down. I said him that I will do better.' President Obama said the plot was 'not the fault of a single individual or organisation, but rather a systemic failure across organisations and agencies.' He said the US homeland security system and intelligence community broke down in three ways, allowing Mr Abdulmutallab to board a Northwest jet from Amsterdam to Detroit with explosives hidden in his underwear. He blamed US spies for not 'aggressively' chasing down the Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula group that planned the attack, and then not properly analysing intelligence then, the intelligence that was known was not properly filtered through the US national intelligence system, allowing Mr Abdulmutallab to board the plane. 'I am deeply troubled, President Obama said he would fire no one but follow up on intelligence issues, pushing and getting analysis of reports using the classified information, and improvements to analytical procedures. Though warning that 'we are not alone' in the world, Mr Obama also vowed substantial investments in aviation security, a homeland security secretary Peter R. Dinkins announced a new and improved way to

and called on other nations to do their part to safeguard their own citizens as well as US security. Ms Napolitano promised to speed up the deployment of 300 body imaging machines at airports and said the government would aggressively seek to develop new detection technology. More canine security teams will comb airports, and additional uniformed and undercover detection officers will be deployed, including more federal air marshals on planes. Mr Obama's Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said in a letter to employees of the 16 US intelligence agencies that he would push for a 'fresh and penetrating look at strengthening both human and technical performance' in the field. The Central Intelligence Agency said it planned to increase the number of analysts looking at Yemen and Africa. Mr Obama has faced a barrage of criticism since the attack. But in his speech, he attempted to address his critics. 'We are at war against al-Qaeda, a far-reaching network of violence and hatred that attacked us on 9/11, that killed nearly 3,000 innocent people, and that is plotting to strike us again,' he said. 'We will do whatever it takes to defeat them.'

4. Death sentences in Burma over document leak

A court in military-ruled Burma, also known as Myanmar, passed death sentences on two people and sentenced another to 15 years in prison for leaking confidential documents. The offence concerned pictures and documents relating to overseas trips by senior officials, including one by a junta member to China and North Korea. China is among Myanmar's few diplomatic allies. According to some reports, North Korea has been helping Myanmar develop nuclear facilities. Northern Yangon District Court sentenced retired Major Win Naing Kyaw and Foreign Ministry clerk Thura Kyaw to death under a wide-ranging security law, the Emergency Provision Act, the legal source told Reuters, declining to be identified by name. A civilian named as Ryan Sein got 15 years in jail for offences under the Electronic Act, and the other two defendants were also given jail terms under the same law by the court, in a special session inside Insein Central Prison in Yangon. This law bans the use of the internet to send material deemed harmful to the country. The leaked photographs and documents included records of a visit to North Korea and China by General Thura Shwe Mann, the third most powerful figure in the regime. Pictures of Shwe Mann and his entourage visiting military facilities in North Korea and China were published on websites run by Burmese exiles in the middle of last year. The three defendants were arrested in July. The death penalty is rarely carried out in Myanmar, with sentences normally commuted to life imprisonment.

5. Israel says no more concessions for prisoner

Israel will not make any more concessions to Hamas in negotiations for the exchange of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured by Gaza militants in 2006. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his negotiator to make it clear Israel will not retreat from its position that some of the prisoners Hamas wants freed cannot be released, radio and several newspapers reported. He also insists some of the prisoners cannot be released in the occupied West Bank as this would jeopardise its security, public radio said. 'Netanyahu sent a clear signal to Hamas: the proposal sent by Israel to Hamas, via the German mediator, is the last of its kind. Israel will no longer negotiate on the details of the deal,' the Maariv newspaper said, citing a senior official it did not name. Both sides have been tight-lipped about the indirect negotiations, but Hamas, the Palestinian leaders of the Gaza Strip, seek the release of hundreds of prisoners including several top militants convicted or killing scores of Israelis in major attacks. Mr Shalit, now 27, was captured by Hamas fighters and militants from two other groups in a deadly cross-border raid into the Gaza Strip in June 2006.

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SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 08 January 2010 19:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: briefing on today's meeting

Minister

for your information.

Veronica

-----Original Message-----

From: KEANEY Doreen
Sent: 08 January 2010 18:59
To: SCANLAN Veronica
Subject:



National Emergency Response Co... National Emergency Response Co...

*Doreen Keeney
Principal Officer
Roads Division
Department of Transport
Kildare st
Dublin 2*

[REDACTED]

National Emergency Response Committee Meeting
8th January 2009 - 11.30am

Agriculture House, Kildare Street

Attendance - see attached.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sean Hogan (Chairman of the Emergency Planning Committee). Mr Hogan was assisted by Mr. Pat Mangan, Assistant Secretary, Department of Transport.

Minister Gormley attended the meeting.

The Chairman emphasised that the Committee had been mandated to coordinate the response at national level to the extreme weather situation. As there was no immediate end in sight to the severe weather an inter-agency approach was necessary in order to assist the work at local level in the challenging and deteriorating situation. Local Authorities would remain the key players. There were a number of issues to be considered ranging from salt stocks to clearing footpaths to school closures etc. He was proposing to have daily meetings and would be seeking short concise responses from individual agencies and Departments under a 24-hour deadline and in a shorter timeframe in certain cases.

Minister Gormley noted the excellent work carried out to date and emphasised that the Committee would act for Central Government in supporting the local authorities under the Emergency Framework and in conjunction with the Gardai and the HSE.

Key Points arising from meeting:

Met Éireann:

Mr Gerald Fleming stated that last night was bitterly cold. Casement Aerodrome recorded temperature of -12 C. Today's temperatures are - 3C to + 2C. Below ground temperatures to significant depth on roads are exceptional for Ireland and will result in frozen road surfaces even if air temperatures rise a little.

Forecast is very cold weather for over the weekend with significant risk of snow in Leinster and the southern half of the country on Sunday. Temperatures are expected to increase slightly towards the end of next week but the wind chill factor will make it appear colder. Accurate forecasts can only be given for one week ahead. Met Éireann provides forecasts in line with standards agreed at European level. Met Éireann will provide note on the European Meteorological organisation

Transport:

Mr Pat Mangan said that local authorities were continuing to focus on the arterial road network (10% of total road network). Where resources permit they are extending coverage. However the shortage of salt is a key problem.

Some local authorities are offering grit to communities. However this is of limited value and only proving effective on footpaths. The Dublin City Council oversaw a major effort to grit footpaths last night, especially at highly important locations such as hospitals.

Dublin Bus is keeping commuters informed with regular up-dates on its website. Certain routes, and segments of routes, are curtailed due to driving conditions.

Irish Rail is running an almost complete service. Temporary problems are being experienced by frozen points, etc.

Commercial airports are currently operating an almost complete service. However snowfall will have a real impact on air services.

Education:

80% schools are currently closed.

The Department of Education will encourage schools to make a decision early this weekend on school openings/closures next week and will provide full details including facts and figures on school numbers. Consideration is being given as to whether a central decision should be taken on schools closures for next week.

Environment:

Homeless issue is being monitored but is not a concern at present. There is a small number who will not use shelters. Water is becoming an issue and Dublin City Council will issue a public appeal on conserving water supplies. Nationally, water reserves are dropping daily.

Agriculture:

Supply of liquid milk to shops could be a problem. Some milk plants are experiencing problems with water systems. D/ET&E and D/A&F to provide information on any emerging food importation/distribution issue

Government Press Office:

Mr. John Downing is responsible for controlling the Committees input to media.

He emphasised the need for consistency in communicating with the media. He recommended having experts and officials talk to the media and not politicians.

Health:

Hospitals nationally are under pressure with the number of patients being admitted with fractures. Cork Hospitals have had over 1000 fracture injuries. This highlighted the importance of bringing information on suitable footwear to the public.

Blood supply is also being monitored and more clinics will be set up.

Dublin City Council:

Mr. John Tierney stated that Dublin City Council are currently using a mix of white salt which they have sourced from a commercial supplier and grit. The Council is conserving its rock salt supply for the expected snowfall on Sunday.

NRA:

NRA estimate that 15,000-20,000 tonnes of rock salt will be needed next week i.e. approximately 2,500 tonnes required per day across all local authorities.

The NRA is involved in contacting embassies abroad to elicit help in securing supplies of salt. They are also contacting other road authorities. The NRA is continuing to liaise with the 2 main suppliers. As fresh supplies are sourced, there will be questions concerning the distribution of such supplies. It was agreed that the priority will remain the national and other priority roads.

The NRA discussed the use of other chemical alternatives to salt and said they could source 600 tonnes immediately. This was agreed as an exceptional measure.

Use of sea sand on roads

Department of Environment marine biologists tested the saline quality of beach sand. A negligible amount of salt was detected. Therefore the current position in the time available is that beach sand is no better than quarry sand. The benefits associated with using quarry sand are that it can be graded and its use precludes the necessity for applying for a fore-shore licence (responsibility for issuing fore-shore licenses is currently being transferred from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government).

Use of Grit:

Grit is not an acceptable option to rock salt. It may give some initial traction benefits associated with its application (traction benefits are lost when grit compacts with new snowfall). It also gives a false sense of safety as it is visible to motorists.

Two problems associated with grit are its capacity to block drains and the impact on roads (after ice melts). Its use should be left to the discretion of local authorities having regard to local priorities/expertise etc. NRA will provide note on the usage of grit including safety implications.

Footpaths

Dublin City Council will spend €400,000 to cover overtime for workers this evening and tomorrow clearing the footpaths.

De-icing footpaths now is recommended if possible. This will be a major benefit if snow falls on Sunday i.e. this will enable snowfall to be simply brushed off.

The Committee agreed that an appeal to the public and business to get involved in relation to tackling footpaths outside homes and business should be undertaken.

Defence Forces

The Defence Forces are currently receiving piecemeal requests for assistance. They have a wide range of skill sets but are limited by capacity. They may be called upon to assist local authorities in the event of a snowfall on Sunday. The primary involvement will be in distribution with a secondary role in transportation i.e. in emergency circumstances.

Energy Supplies:

Oil - Some local problems with lorry deliveries.

Gas -- no major issues. Gas prices are currently low.

Communications :

Significant increase in calls to 999.

Public Information:

Minister Gormley emphasised the importance of local radio stations in communicating with the general public. The need for newspaper advertisements listing telephone numbers for the essential services was discussed. It was proposed that adverts to be inserted providing public information on key emergency contact details in LA's etc/ advice re driver and pedestrian behaviour/ Clothing and footwear/ conserving water (which is an emerging issue), additional blood clinics etc. Community involvement in clearing footpaths to be proposed.

Safety

An Garda Siochana outlined their role in the road safety area and referred to their website and that of RSA which contain significant information. The need for personal responsibility by all road users was highlighted. .

Mr Sean Hogan asked that all early morning submissions be emailed to emergencymanagement@environ.ie

Committee will meet again on Saturday @ 11.30

ENDS

ACTION POINTS/DECISIONS

- All attendees to provide short notes re information supplied to meeting and other relevant data and to respond to queries within 24 hrs.
- Met Eireann, NRA and LA reps to engage immediately after meeting to review impact of snow forecast for Sunday-Monday.
- Priority to continue to be given to national and other priority routes. Any extension to other roads or footpaths to be left to the discretion of local authorities having regard to local expertise and risk assessments.
- Supply of salt is crucial as it is the most effective method of anti-icing and de-icing.
- NRA to go ahead re purchase of salt alternative identified and to continue efforts to source rock salt.
- NRA to draft note as to why grit is not a solution to salt and outlining the safety issues and after event impact on roads and water drains.
- Advice from marine scientists is that amount of salt in beach sand is negligible and therefore its use is not of any benefit especially as there are adequate supplies of sand/ grit and beach sand can clog up equipment. Also there are considerable legal issues where SSIA are concerned.
- Adverts to be inserted providing public information on key emergency contact details in LA's etc/ advice re driver and pedestrian behaviour/ Clothing and footwear/ conserving water (which is an emerging issue), additional blood clinics etc. Community involvement in clearing footpaths to be proposed.
- Media group to be set and to meet immediately to agree media strategy.
- D/ET&E and D/A&F to provide information on any emerging food importation/distribution issue

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 09 January 2010 14:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Bus Eireann Services Update 9th Jan 2010 2.40pm

Minister

for your information

Veronica

-----Original Message-----

From: McLindon Andrew [mailto:Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie]
Sent: 09 January 2010 14:41
To: McLindon Andrew
Subject: Bus Eireann Services Update 9th Jan 2010 2.40pm

Subject to road and weather conditions, the vast majority of services in the east of the country are currently operating with some delays. Some local services operating on secondary roads are disrupted. Given snowfall in the east of the country, services in that region are being monitored on an on-going basis.

The majority of services in the rest of the country are operating with some delays. Due to heavy snow in Limerick, services between Limerick and Dublin for the rest of the day are cancelled.

The following services in the east are cancelled at the moment:

Route 4 Dublin/Waterford service for the moment
Route 5 Dublin-Waterford via New Ross
Route 7 Dublin-Clonmel
102 Ardcath-Dublin
108 17.30 Dublin-Baileboro
163 Drogheda/Donore
186 Drogheda/Clogherhead - limited service expected later this morning
189 Drogheda/Grangebellew
190 Drogheda/Laytown
104 Blanchardstown-Ashbourne
105 Dublin-Fairyhouse-Ratoath
107 Dublin-Kingscourt
168 1330, 1630 Dundalk-Anagassan

There is significant disruption to the 109 Dublin-Keils service. Services on route 109 are being diverted via Dublin Port Tunnel with first pick-up location at Blanchardstown.

There is a limited service on the 173 Drogheda Town Service (North and South).

The 100 Drogheda-Dundalk service is being diverted via M1 between Dunleer and Drogheda and is not serving Monasterboice due to ice.

115 Dublin-Mullingar service is unable to serve Ballivor.

111 Dublin-Granard is operating as far as Castlepollard

09/01/2010

133 Dublin-Wicklow is operating to Grand Hotel/Monument only

In Waterford, 1745 Waterford-Duncannon will operate to New Ross only

In Wexford, the Wexford-Kilmore Quay, and Wexford-Gorey services are cancelled.

In Cork, there is disruption and delays to some services in Cork county. The following services are cancelled at the moment:

230 Cork-Ballingeary

234 Cork-Stuake

246 Cork-Sarsfield Court

247 Cork-Glenville

248 Cork-Norrie Roche's Cross

255 Macroom-Kilcrohane

There are diversions on the 233, 222, 223 and 206 services.

In Kerry, the Tralee/Cork service will not operate via Millstreet and Rathmore due to poor road conditions and will use Ballyvourney/County Bounds Road instead.

Services in the Killorglin area remain disrupted in particular on the Tralee to Killorglin Road. It is hoped that a full service will operate between 10.00 and 16.00 approx.

Bus Éireann will continue to monitor this situation closely and we would advise customers to contact their local travel office for information on individual services or visit www.buseireann.ie.

Bus Éireann would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

For information on Dublin Bus services, please visit www.dublinbus.ie. For information on rail services, please visit www.irishrail.ie.

ENDS

Andrew McLindon
Manager, Media and PR
Bus Éireann
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SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 09 January 2010 18:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: RTE.ie News Update - LIVE - Weather & transport updates

09 January 2010 17:50

IRISH NEWS

1. Transport concerns over heavy snowfall
2. Body of man found near Dublin Airport
3. Decision to close schools welcomed
4. Man dies in Kerry house fire
5. Iris Robinson ousted from DUP
6. Injured PSNI officer in stable condition
7. Youth arrested after cocaine seizure
8. Sinn Féin Cllr resigns from party

IRELAND'S WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Two Togo soccer delegates killed
2. Man pleads not guilty to plane plot
3. Three held over Heathrow bomb threat
4. Germany braces for blizzard as Europe shivers

IRISH NEWS

1. Transport concerns over heavy snowfall

Minister for the Environment John Gormley has said more heavy snowfalls are expected to make transport conditions deteriorate on Monday and Tuesday. Speaking on RTÉ Radio 1, he said stocks of salt to treat the roads would have to be managed carefully and would be used from one local authority to another to best benefit, as required. Mr Gormley said local authorities had put out an alert for salt and supplies were low, and said he was not sure if, meanwhile, all flights were out of Dublin Airport have ceased. A decision was taken to suspend the flights shortly after 6pm after two aircraft reported seeing no snow on the runway. A decision was made to suspend the flights following overnight freezing temperatures. A decision was made to suspend the flights following overnight freezing temperatures. A decision was made to suspend the flights following overnight freezing temperatures.

Photos from around the country - yourphotos@rté.ie Motorists are again being warned to exercise extreme caution and avoid unnecessary journeys. Roads are icy across the country as temperatures dipped to at least -12C in places. With salt supplies running very low, local authorities have begun using a mixture of sand and salt to treat roads. The National Roads Authority has said it will be conserving stocks of grit over the weekend, to ensure that main roads can remain open next week. Met Éireann says the severe weather could last for at least another week. Dublin Bus says that subject to weather and road conditions it will be operating a full service on all corridors. However, curtailments are in place in some areas, and passengers are advised to check the Dublin Bus website for updates.

2. Body of man found near Dublin Airport

A man has been found shot dead in Dublin. The man's body was discovered lying in a ditch at Dunbro Lane, at the back of Dublin airport. The discovery was made at around 2pm this afternoon. Gardai have launched a murder investigation and the area has been sealed off pending the arrival of a forensic team from Garda head-quarters. The scene is also being preserved and the State Pathologist's office has been notified. It is believed the victim may be a man who was reported missing from his home in North Dublin two days ago. The father of two children had survived a previous attempt on his life.

3. Decision to close schools welcomed

There has been a qualified welcome for the decision of Minister for Education Batt O'Keeffe to close primary and second-level schools on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Irish National Teachers' Organisation said the decision was sensible in the circumstances. The Irish Primary Principals' Network said it welcomed the fact that schools had been given direction. However concern has been expressed around schools where conditions in their area do not present a safety hazard. The Minister said he took the decision on health and safety grounds following a meeting of the Government's emergency planning group and in the context of a poor weather outlook. Acknowledging that there may be some schools that are in a position to open, the minister said that on balance this was the responsible and prudent approach. It is welcome news for the many school principals who had serious concerns around health and safety issues but it will prove a headache for many parents. It also raises once again the question as to who is actually responsible for schools. The Minister is not legally the employer in schools, Boards of Management are. There may now be concern in some quarters as to his right to make such an order.

4. Man dies in Kerry house fire

A man has died in a fire at his home near Tralee, Co Kerry. The fire was discovered at midday at the house at Church Road Blennerville around two miles west of Tralee. Neighbours alerted the emergency services after seeing smoke coming from the man's home. The man, who was in his 60s, lived alone at the house. His body was taken to Kerry General Hospital in Tralee where a post-mortem examination will be conducted later.

5. Iris Robinson cleared from DUP

The Democratic Unionist Party today ousted disgraced MP Iris Robinson. Her membership has been terminated and she will leave Westminster and her MLA's position in Northern Ireland as early as next week because of the shame over her financial dealings with a 13-year-old lover. Party officers would meet as early as Monday to decide who would replace Mrs Robinson as MLA in the Northern Ireland Assembly. However, there will not be a by-election for her Westminster stronghold seat as a general election is likely before the formal writ can be moved. The wife of Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson announced just after Christmas she was quitting politics because of severe depression. But the Robinsons have since been plagued with controversy after it emerged Iris had received £5,000 a week while her 13-year-old lover set up a restaurant business in South Belfast. Her husband Peter has been left fighting to clear his wife's name, insisting he did not know of his wife's irregular financial dealings with her teenage lover. It is believed Mrs Robinson's personal income in 2009 was £100,000. Her autobiography

sources with the party claim the leader believes his marriage may not even survive, never mind his political career.

6. Injured PSNI officer in stable condition

A policeman injured by a bomb in Co Antrim yesterday remains in a stable but critical condition in hospital. Dissident republicans are believed to have been responsible for the attack. The 33-year-old had just left his home outside Randalstown to start duty in west Belfast when the device exploded under his blue Alfa Romeo car around 6.30am. The constable is a Gaelicgoir and a GAA member. He was taken to Antrim hospital for emergency treatment before being transferred to the Royal Victoria in Belfast. PSNI Chief Constable Matt Saggott said the policeman had been brutally targeted in a cowardly attack as he left his home to travel to work. In condemning the attack he said it would not deter the PSNI from providing a first class impartial police service. He said the vast majority of people had been horrified. The Ulster Council of the GAA said it was dismayed to learn of the attack on a member of the PSNI. The officer is an active member of the GAA and the a

association extended best wishes to him for a full and speedy recovery. The council's president, Tom Daly, said it was a matter of huge regret to see a young man who contributes so positively to his community attacked in this way. The attack is detrimental to the development of a shared future based on mutual respect including respect for life, he said. Mr Daly said the GAA had a long standing and publicly stated policy of opposition to violence.

7. Youth arrested after cocaine seizure

A youth has been arrested after cocaine with an estimated street value of EUR60,000 was seized. The youth was stopped by gardai on the Chapelized Hill Road at 8.30pm last night. A quantity of cocaine was seized and a further quantity of the drug was found in a follow-up operation at a house.

8. Sinn Féin Cllr resigns from party

Sinn Féin Councillor Killian Forde has resigned from the party. The Dublin Chairperson of Sinn Féin, Eoin Ó Broin, described the resignation as a disappointment, and called on him to also resign his seat to allow the co-option of a new Sinn Féin councillor for the Donaghmede ward. Mr Forde is the third Sinn Féin elected member to Dublin City Council to resign from the party and to continue as councillor. Sinn Féin's representation on the city council has now been cut from seven to four councillors within six months of the last local elections.

IRELAND'S WEATHER

Nationwide - Tonight

Scattered snow showers will be heavy in places. Also freezing fog and ice will contribute to dangerous conditions for travelling. Snow showers will continue to affect parts of Leinster with many other areas becoming dry. Temperature lows ranging from 0 to 10 Celsius -12 to -14 Fahrenheit

Wales - Tomorrow

SNOW will become widespread over much of Leinster and Munster and later extending into Connaught turning perhaps to heavy rain along the east and south coasts. Feeling bitterly cold with a significant wind chill effect from the strengthening east to north-east winds.

Temperature highs ranging from -1 to 2 Celsius -13 to -17 Fahrenheit

1. Two Togo soccer delegates killed

Two members of Togo's national soccer Delegation died following an ambush on the team bus as it travelled to the African Nations cup in Angola, and their team appeared set to quit the tournament. Friday's attack, in which the driver was also killed and seven others were injured, took place in the province of Cabinda. It was claimed by the FLDC, a rebel group that has been fighting for secession sporadically for decades. Togolese officials named the dead men as media officer Stanislas Colbo and assistant coach Amalete Abalo, and said reserve goalkeeper Kodjovi Obilale had been evacuated to Johannesburg for medical treatment. Togolese soccer administrators met the players, and Togo's presidency said the federation would decide whether to quit the three-week tournament after returning to the capital Lome. But Togo's captain Emmanuel Adebayor, who escaped the attack unharmed, was already flying home, according to his club Manchester City said. The attack, claimed by separatist rebels, came five months before South Africa hosts the World Cup, the first African nation to hold the world's biggest single sport event.

2. Man pleads not guilty to plane plot

A Nigerian accused of trying to blow up a US plane on Christmas Day pleaded not guilty during his first court appearance amid heightened security. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, aged 23, spoke softly from the dock Friday to confirm his name, how it was spelt and his age. His expression flat, his eyes averted from the gathered crowd, he said he understood the six charges against him. His court-appointed lawyer, Miriam Siefer, entered the plea of not guilty to all six charges, including attempted murder of 290 people on board the plane and trying to use a weapon of mass destruction. He faces life imprisonment if convicted. 'At this time our client would like to enter a plea of not guilty,' siefer said, but added 'we have - with our client's consent - consented to detention.' Abdulmutallab, son of a prominent Nigerian banker, was arrested after the botched Al-Qaeda plot, in which explosives allegedly stitched into his underwear failed to detonate aboard a Northwest flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. He was badly burned when the device sparked a fire. Asked if he had taken any medication in the past 24 hours, he said 'Yes. Painkillers,' holding his left hip. It was not US intelligence that thwarted the attack, but passengers and crew, who tackled and restrained Abdulmutallab before he was escorted off the plane.

3. Three held over Heathrow bomb threat

Three people arrested on a plane at Heathrow Airport last night are being held on suspicion of making a bomb threat. Reports said armed officers boarded the Dubai-bound Emirates flight just before take off, after verbal threats were made and crew members alerted the police. Three men, aged 53, 43 and 35, were arrested and are being questioned. The incident comes amid heightened tension at airports across the world following the unsuccessful Christmas Day bombing attempt in Detroit in the US.

4. Germany braces for blizzard as Europe shivers

Europe faced a weekend of weather chaos as Germany braced for a blizzard and authorities warned people to stock up on food and drinking water while Britain and France struggled to cope with heavy snow. Germans were urged to buy enough food and supplies to last for up to four days with lots of sweets reserved for Christmas Eve. The German government said all non-essential travel should be avoided. By yesterday evening, the island of Rugen off the northern coast was covered in ice and snow while the capital Berlin was carpeted with snow and ice. 'What is being forecast for the weekend could lead to chaotic traffic conditions and potentially leave large parts of Germany completely paralysed,' the Autolux Europa warned. Britain, suffering its worst winter for three decades, was forced to curb industrial use as it gave dwindling supplies. The country prepared for harsher freezing conditions as if forecasts warned that temperatures would drop below -20C.

Two men died after falling into a frozen lake in Germany, General England said. Hundreds of flights were scrapped leaving 100 passengers stranded and the beleaguered Channel link between Britain, France and Belgium took into service the ferry and rail bus disruption now has continued into the weekend. British cancelled rail routes between London and Paris today and will only allow a handful of high-speed trains to run and the disruption will persist over the weekend. Low

airline easyJet cancelled 32 flights, largely to and from London Gatwick and Liverpool airports. British Airways cancelled around 60 departures from London Heathrow, while around 90 incoming flights were scrapped. On the roads, the AA motor vehicle breakdown service said it had dealt with 342,000 breakdowns since 17 December. In France, significant snowfalls caused major delays to train services and southern areas experienced electricity cuts. With more snow forecast, authorities asked airlines to cut a quarter of flights today at Paris's main Charles de Gaulle airport. Meteo France posted weather warnings for 55 of metropolitan France's 94 departments on Saturday, warning snow and ice may 'cause major transportation difficulties and severely disrupt activities'. In the southern city of Arles, some 15,000 people were left without electricity after power lines collapsed under the weight of snow. Around 40 centimetres fell in some parts of the southeast. In Norway, temperatures hit minus 42 degrees Celsius in the central village of Follidal. In Poland, nine people died in a 48 hour period, bringing the total weather-related deaths to 139 since the start of November, a police spokesman said. Most of the victims were homeless people. Meanwhile Switzerland's 24.5km Gotthard Tunnel, part of a strategic trans-European motorway that runs from Germany to Italy, was due to reopen to trucks following heavy snowfall.

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SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 09 January 2010 18:18
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: NERCC

Minister

for your information.

Veronica

-----Original Message-----

From: KILLIAN Kay
Sent: 09 January 2010 17:18
To: 'emergencymanagement@environ.ie'
Cc: MANGAN Pat; MULLANEY Dominic; KEANEY Doreen
Subject: NERCC

Please find attached note from Pat Mangan, Assistant Secretary in relation to an issue with Irish Rail waxing of diesel for NERCC information.



2010.01.09 Irish
rail waxing o...

Regards and Thanks

Kay Killian

FAO: Sean Hogan

Irish Rail are experiencing some problems with waxing of diesel on their rolling stock because of the prolonged cold spell. It will not affect services today or Sunday but may impact from Monday. Irish Rail management will meet tomorrow (Sunday) at 11am to assess the position and take decisions. The likely response is to run fewer services using longer trains, so as to retain as much capacity as possible. DART obviously not affected.

Pat Mangan
Assistant Secretary
Department of Transport

9-1/2010

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 10 January 2010 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Bus Eireann Service Update 10th Jan 8.30am

-----Original Message-----

From: McLindon Andrew <Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie>
To: McLindon Andrew <Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie>
Sent: Sun Jan 10 08:32:58 2010
Subject: Bus Eireann Service Update 10th Jan 8.30am



ATT22568421.doc

Subject to road and weather conditions, the vast majority of services in the east of the country are currently operating with some delays. Some local services operating on secondary roads are likely to be disrupted.

The majority of services in the rest of the country are operating with some delays.

Services between Dublin-Limerick are cancelled for the moment due to conditions on the Naas Road.

100X Dundalk-Dublin is operating with delays because snow on M1 has restricted it to one lane. 101 Drogheda-Dublin is operating via Port Tunnel into Dublin.

190 Laytown Drogheda service is cancelled.

Given the snow forecast for today throughout the country, Bus Eireann will continue to monitor this situation closely and we would advise customers to contact their local travel office for information on individual services or visit www.buseireann.ie.

Bus Eireann would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

For more information on Dublin city services, please visit www.dublincity.ie or www.dublincity.ie. For information on rail services, please visit www.rail.ie.

2/10/10

SCANLAN Veronica

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 10 January 2010 09:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Bus Eireann Service Update 10th Jan 2010 9.50am

-----Original Message-----

From: McLindon Andrew <Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie>
To: McLindon Andrew <Andrew.McLindon@buseireann.ie>
Sent: Sun Jan 10 09:50:51 2010
Subject: Bus Eireann Service Update 10th Jan 2010 9.50am



ATT22593583.txt

Subject to road and weather conditions, the vast majority of services in the east of the country are currently operating with some delays.

The majority of services in the rest of the country are operating with some delays.

Services between Dublin-Limerick are cancelled for the moment due to conditions on the Naas Road.

17.30 Dublin Airport-Wicklow and Wicklow-Dublin Airport services are cancelled.

190 Laytown-Drogheda service is cancelled.

In Cork, 246 Cork-Sarsfield Court is cancelled. There are diversions on services 233, 236, 222, and 223.

Route 40 Cork-Tralee is unable to serve Millstreet.

Given the snow forecast for today throughout the country, the Bus Éireann will continue to monitor this situation closely and we would advise passengers to contact their local travel office for information on individual services or visit www.buseireann.ie.

Bus Éireann would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

For more information on the current situation, please visit www.buseireann.ie or call 1800 20 20 20. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you as necessary.

ENDS

KILLIAN Kay

From: SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: 10 January 2010 12:54
To: [REDACTED] FITZPATRICK Sean; KILLIAN Kay
Subject: Update from Dick Fearn

Minister, Sean, Kay & Pat

Dick Fearn phoned me just now to advise that everything is very much in business with Iarnrod Eireann at the moment.

The infrastructure is in good condition.

The snow is not clogging up any tracks or lines for DART & it's working very well with no problems.

Re. waxing of diesel, they are monitoring the mainline trains very carefully & everything is under control at the moment. However, in order to reduce the risk of breakdown on the lines where these occur most frequently (e.g. Galway / Mayo & Waterford) they will reduce the number of services e.g. Waterford train due to depart at 7.10am tomorrow with only one stop in Carlow will not run - but the next train will depart at 7.40am (but stopping at various places along the way). Barry Kenny is putting a notice out now letting the public know this.

Veronica
10 January 2010

[illegible]

APPENDIX A

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

In Clare, 19.15 Limerick to Kilkee and 19.55 Ennis to Doolin are cancelled.

Bus Éireann will continue to monitor this situation closely and we would advise customers to contact their local travel office for information on individual services or visit www.buseireann.ie.

Bus Éireann would like to apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused.

For information on Dublin Bus services, please visit www.dublinbus.ie <<http://www.dublinbus.ie/>> . For information on rail services, please visit www.irishrail.ie.

ENDS

Andrew McLindon

Manager, Media and PR

Bus Éireann

Tel: 01 763 1759 (d)

Mobile: 087 263 9601

andrew.mclindon@buseireann.ie <blocked::mailto:andrew.mclindon@buseireann.ie>

SCANLAN Veronica

From: MINISTER'S OFFICE
Sent: 06 January 2010 12:46
To: 'Mattie McGrath@Oireachtas.ie'
Cc: SCANLAN Veronica
Subject: Re: Severe Driving Conditions

Mattie,
Thanks for your email.

Responsibility for management of the roads rests fairly and squarely with the NRA (who use the Local Authorities as their agents) for National roads and the Local Authorities for their regional and local roads. It would not be possible for a Government Minister to start deciding what local roads should be gritted. The people best placed to decide that are the local roads engineers who know the local areas. In cases of special difficulty where people are isolated for periods of time again local people including local public representatives are best placed to bring this to the attention of the relevant local authority personnel for action. We have asked LA's to be as helpful as possible in such cases.

As I am sure you can appreciate it is not humanly possible for LA's to grit every road.

If any County Council, as distinct from individual Councillors (usually fg lab or other) has criticised Govt about this they can be very firmly told that this is one of their most basic responsibilities and they should discharge it fully. As they are now in a new financial year money is not an issue for them.

I am asking Veronica to send a more general briefing note.

Regards,
Noel Dempsey.

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin.Lonergan@Oireachtas.ie <Martin.Lonergan@Oireachtas.ie>
To: minister@environ.ie <minister@environ.ie>; eddie_kiernan@environ.ie <eddie_kiernan@environ.ie>
Cc: MINISTER'S OFFICE; SCANLAN Veronica
Sent: Wed Jan 06 11:43:48 2010
Subject: Severe Driving Conditions

Dear Minister's Dempsey and Cormley,

It has now been almost 4 weeks since this extremely cold spell has existed in this country and with Met Eireann forecasting it to continue, it is absolutely appalling that in every County across the Country, there exists, extremely hazardous and dangerous driving conditions!

Why did we have to report salt when there was always ordinary grit available in this Country (sand pits etc.) to Local Authorities? Both Ministers need to be seen to be addressing this issue and taking a leading role. County Councils are blaming the Government and surely it is a Government we must take the matter in hand now.

I await your immediate reply.

Lois McLaughlin

Mattie

Mattie McGrath, TD
Minister for the Environment
Government Buildings
Dublin 2
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