

From: Ministers Office <Minister-Transport@corr.cloud.gov.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 11:36 AM

To: Brenda Kelly <Brenda.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>

Subject: Ref: TTAS-MO-04428-2023

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-04428-2023

Dear Ms. Kelly ,

Thank you for your correspondence from the elected members of Kilkenny County Council in relation to the reclassification of the R639 (Urlingford to Kilkenny) from a regional to a national road .

I apologise for the delay in responding ,this is due to the large volume of correspondence currently being experienced in the Department

The classification of roads as either national or regional is the responsibility of the Minister of Transport under Section 10 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended. A public road, other than one classified by the Minister as a national road or a regional road, is a local road.

The 1993 legislation also provides that where a public road which has been classified as a national or regional road has been realigned or bypassed the section of the pre-existing road which remains following the realignment or bypass becomes a local road unless reclassified by the Minister.

Roads classified as National Primary or National Secondary are funded by the State and construction, improvement and maintenance works are overseen by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in conjunction with the relevant local authority, and funded mainly from voted monies. Roads classified as Regional or Local roads fall under the responsibility of Local Authorities. The construction, repair and maintenance of these roads is funded by Local Authorities own resources supplemented by State grants.

Requests to classify a road as a national road or regional road are considered in consultation with TII as appropriate. Criteria for consideration are numerous and include items such as function of road including access to towns and cities, ports and airports, geographical regions, population centres and tourist regions. It also includes considerations of continuity of classification throughout the length of road, whether roads are feeder connections or links to the national road network, cross section, alignment and structural integrity as well as amount of heavy commercial vehicles.

The Department receives a number of requests from Local Authorities to reclassify parts of the road network. Decision to reclassify these roads will be considered as part of a future general review of road classifications.

Please also note, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993, each local authority has statutory responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of their regional and local roads. Works on those roads are funded from local authorities' own resources and are supplemented by State Road grants.

With best wishes,

Amanda Corley

Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie)

An Roinn Iompair

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