

Subject: Strategic Investment Needed in Dublin–Wexford Rail Services

Dear Minister O'Brien,

I am writing to urge your office to prioritise investment in the Dublin–Wexford railway line, a vital link for regional connectivity, economic development, and sustainable transport.

Despite its importance, this route remains significantly underserved. On weekdays, there are only six daily services between Dublin and Gorey, five between Dublin and Wexford, and just four between Dublin and Rosslare Harbour. The trains operating on this line include a mix of newer and older InterCity models. However, the older trains present notable challenges: they lack modern amenities such as USB charging ports and plug sockets, offer limited accessibility features, and provide a less comfortable travel experience overall. In addition, many services run with too few carriages, leading to a shortage of seating and frequent overcrowding, particularly during peak times and busy weekends.

We acknowledge the additional early morning and late evening services between Gorey and Dublin, which are a welcome development for commuters in North Wexford and South Wicklow. However, as these services do not extend to Wexford Town or key stations such as Enniscorthy and Rosslare Europort, large parts of the county remain underserved — particularly during peak travel times and weekends. The immediate priorities should be to expand capacity on existing routes, extend coverage to all major stations, upgrade outdated rolling stock, and increase weekend services to better support tourism.

Improved rail connectivity would also strengthen Wexford's economy. By making the county more accessible to both commuters and employers, enhanced services would boost workforce mobility, attract skilled professionals, and support business investment. This would help balance regional development while easing pressure on the Greater Dublin Area.

Better rail access would further promote sustainable travel, reduce car dependency, and ease congestion on the N11 and M50. These improvements would not only benefit residents and visitors but also advance Ireland's long-term climate and regional development goals.

To achieve these outcomes, we urge the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority, and Irish Rail to work in partnership to prioritise investment in the Dublin–Wexford rail corridor. A coordinated approach across all three bodies will ensure this vital route receives the attention it deserves - supporting balanced regional growth and delivering a modern, sustainable, and connected transport network for the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Roche,

CEO

County Wexford Chamber