



Department for  
**Regional  
Development**

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AN ROINN

**Forbartha Réigiúnaí**

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Cllr Alex Easton MLA  
7 Bridge St  
Donaghadee  
BT21 0AD

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: **DRD/SUB/057/2010**  
Date: **2 February 2010**

Dear Alex,

The withdrawal of Easibus services in Bangor is a matter of concern to you and you have asked a number of Assembly Questions about the issue.

In reviewing the statistical information provided by Translink, some additional data has come to light which has shown that, unfortunately, there was an error contained in my responses to AQW 3543/10 and AQW 3544/10. As you are aware, there are two Easibuses providing services in Bangor. One of these has been part-funded by my Department. The other has been funded by Translink from within its own resources since support for it by the tenants of Bloomfield Shopping Centre was withdrawn in 2005. The information provided in my responses to AQWs 3543/10 and 3544/10 was correct in terms of the bus supported by the Department. However the responses did not take account of the bus funded solely by Translink. Revised versions of my answers to AQWs 3543/10 and 3544/10 are attached for your ease of reference.

AQW 3543/10 asked for the cost of running the Easibus service in Bangor. I advised you that in the 2008/09 financial year, the cost to Translink of running the service was £69,746.70, to which my Department contributed £38,360.69. Although this was the amount contributed by the Department for the services it has part-funded, the overall operating cost to Translink for delivering all Easibus services in Bangor was actually £136,858.00.

In relation to AQW 3544/10, you asked how many passengers used the Easibus service in Bangor in the last financial year. Although I provided a breakdown of passenger numbers on the services part funded by the Department (totalling 23,286), the total number of passenger trips on all Easibus Bangor services in 2008/09 was in fact 42,800.

This letter will also be copied to the Speaker, other Members, the Assembly Library and to the Office of the Official Report (Hansard).

I trust this clarifies the matter for you. I apologise for the fact that you were inadvertently misled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor', written in a cursive style.

**CONOR MURPHY MP, MLA**  
**Minister for Regional Development**

Revised Reply to AQW 3543/10

**DATE ANSWERED: WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER 2009**

**Mr A Easton (North Down)** To ask the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of running the Easibus service in Bangor.

**CONOR MURPHY**

For the financial year ending in March 2009 the operating cost to Translink of providing Easibus was £136,858.00, to which DRD contributed £38,360.69.

Signed: *David Curran*

Date: 2/2/10

Approved by the Minister -  
signed in his absence

Revised Reply to AQW 3544/10

**DATE ANSWERED: WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER 2009**

**Mr A Easton (North Down)** To ask the Minister for Regional Development how many passengers used the Easibus service in Bangor in the last financial year.

**CONOR MURPHY**

In the 2008/09 financial year, the four Easibus services in Bangor provided 42,800 passenger journeys.

Signed: *Conor Murphy*  
approved by the Minister +  
signed in his absence

Date: 2/2/10

Revised Reply to AQW 3543/10

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