

## Iarnród Éireann CEO Response — Parliamentary Question PQ15608/23 — 17 May 2023

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| <b>Date:</b> | 17 May 2023          | <b>From:</b>   | Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann (per Heidi Reardon, PA to the CEO)                               |
| <b>To:</b>   | Deputy Mick Barry TD | <b>Status:</b> | SUMMARY ONLY — not on Oireachtas public record; obtained via referred PQ chain; original retained internally |

### REPORT PARAGRAPH

Martin Power asked Deputy Mick Barry TD on 3 February 2023 to submit a parliamentary question to Iarnród Éireann seeking all details relating to the proposed new railway bridge at Park/Carcur. On foot of this parliamentary question, Iarnród Éireann provided the agreement in principle, the relevant drawings and a design statement.

### EVIDENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. This letter is Iarnród Éireann's formal response to Parliamentary Question PQ15608/23, tabled by Deputy Mick Barry TD and referred by the Minister for Transport to IE for direct reply. It confirms that IE engaged with the parliamentary question process and responded substantively, enclosing the full technical approval package for the Carcur bridge.
2. The letter establishes that Iarnród Éireann had processed the proposed railway bridge at Carcur through its formal technical approval system. The documents enclosed — the Acceptance in Principle letter, Approval in Principle Design Statement, and General Arrangement Drawings — are described in paragraphs 31–34 of this report.
3. The response was issued on 17 May 2023, over six weeks after the original PQ answer date of 29 March 2023, with IE recording apologies for the delay — relevant to the timeliness of IE's engagement with the parliamentary accountability process on this matter.
4. This letter confirms that a formal Bridge Agreement process was required under IE's own procedures and that documentation existed between the relevant parties. It is directly relevant to the question of whether the required legal agreements were in place when construction commenced in January 2025.
5. This document was not published on the Oireachtas record. PQ15608/23 was a referred parliamentary question: the Minister's formal entry on the Oireachtas record notes only that the question was referred to IE for direct reply. The IE response and enclosures were provided privately to Deputy Barry and are not otherwise in the public domain.

### KEY PASSAGES FROM OFFICIAL RECORD

*"Please find attached response to PQ15608/23 on behalf of Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann — our apologies for the delay in responding to this. Correspondence referred to also attached."*

*— Heidi Reardon, PA to Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, 17 May 2023 (email covering the PQ response)*

## RELEVANCE TO THIS REPORT

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This source establishes that Iarnród Éireann formally acknowledged the proposed railway bridge at Carcur through the parliamentary question process in May 2023 and provided the technical approval documentation as enclosures. It is relevant because it is the origin of the five documents described in paragraphs 31–34 of this report and confirms IE's institutional awareness of the project, the approval process undertaken, and the conditions attaching to that approval — including the requirement for executed Bridge Agreements before construction could commence.

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*This summary is prepared for public reference and contextual reporting purposes only.*

*The original letter is not reproduced publicly as it was not formally published on the Oireachtas record and was received via private political correspondence.*

*This document is not a legal finding. It identifies the source, summarises the relevant evidential points, and records its relevance to the Park Carcur Report.*