

To: **Each Director of Services Roads & Transportation – By email**
Each Senior Engineer Roads & Transportation – By email
Each Political Party Secretary – By post

Dáta | Date
7 May 2024

Ár dTag | Our Ref.

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

RE: **Safety - Election Posters, Banners etc.**

Dear Director of Services / Senior Engineer/ Secretary,

As you will be aware, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has overall responsibility for the development, maintenance and operation of the national roads network and light rail infrastructure throughout Ireland.

In the interests of safety for road and public transport users, election workers and the public generally, I am writing to you in connection with the upcoming Local and European Parliament elections campaigns and, in particular, safety issues that have been highlighted during previous election campaigns arising from the inappropriate erection of election material, including posters, signs and banners, along national roads and on light rail (Luas) infrastructure. I would, in particular, like to bring the following points to the attention of election candidates and would ask that you forward this letter to all election candidates, known to you, so as to ensure that careful consideration is given to these matters when election material is being erected during the course of the election campaign.

• **National Roads**

Candidates in Local and European Parliament elections are, of course, entitled to erect posters along public roads by virtue of Section 71 of the Roads Acts 1993 to 2015. TII would, however, ask that, in availing of this entitlement, every care should be taken in relation to the siting of election material so as to avoid creating a road safety hazard. Inappropriate siting of election material along national roads, and in particular at junctions, roundabouts and close to road traffic signs, could interfere with the line of vision of road users, including pedestrians. Such activities could also place those erecting the material at risk and could potentially lead to serious accidents and fatalities. In addition, the failure of ties or fixings for the placement of election material along national roads would give rise to serious safety risks for road users. As further detailed below, any election material which is deemed to be a road safety hazard, as determined by our road operators, will be removed and disposed of appropriately.

We would highlight, in particular, the following safety issues/concerns regarding election material on national roads.

○ **Motorways/High Speed Dual Carriageways**

Candidates and election workers should be advised that, with the exception of emergency situations, it is illegal to stop on motorways for any purpose (including the erection of election material). This prohibition exists for road safety reasons and to ensure avoidance of traffic flow disruption. Similarly, for road safety and efficiency reasons, the same approach should be adopted in the case of dual carriageways.

Contractors engaged by TII for the management and maintenance of Motorways/High Speed Dual Carriageways have, accordingly, been instructed to remove any election material placed on/along the roadways, overbridges, interchanges and at interchange approaches.

- **Bridges**

There is an inherent risk in the practice of suspending/attaching banners and posters from/to road overbridges and pedestrian bridges. Such banners/posters could become loose or be interfered with by third parties and could fall onto fast moving traffic on the roads below. This has the potential to result in serious traffic accidents. Accordingly, as outlined above, contractors engaged in maintenance on behalf of TII will remove such potential hazards from Motorways/High Speed Dual Carriageways.

- **Road Signs**

Electronic telematic variable message signs (VMS signs) are used on national roads as part of critical traffic management measures that are put in place during road construction and maintenance activities. The signs therefore play an important role in alerting road users to potential hazards on the road ahead, including temporary lane closures or temporary speed limits and are, therefore, a critical element in ensuring the safety of road users. The use of VMS signs, including mobile signs of the type generally used by road authorities, to convey election messages should, therefore, be avoided as they may distract and/or cause confusion for road users and undermine the effectiveness of the road related information that such signs are intended to convey. Contractors engaged by TII for the management and maintenance of the Motorway/High Speed Dual Carriageway network have, accordingly, been instructed to contact the provider (usually a hire company) and request the removal of any VMS election signs from the network. Where a sign is not removed promptly, the maintenance contractor will remove the sign and seek to recover costs from the offending parties.

- **Light Rail Infrastructure**

Due to the proximity of live electric overhead cables, the erection of election material on Luas infrastructure is strictly forbidden for health and safety reasons. Election posters, banners, etc. placed on any Luas infrastructure will be removed.

Communication Request

It is requested that the Local Authority forward this communication to any election candidates that may be active in their electoral area. In addition, each Political Party is requested to forward this communication to their election candidates.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Kennedy
Head of Regulatory & Administration