

24 November 2023

Dear Principal,

Further to correspondence issued on 22 November 2023, outlining five teaching unions (INTO, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU and UTU) intention to participate in strike action on **Wednesday, 29th November**, the Education Authority (EA) been informed by Translink that they are expecting there will be no train or bus services – Ulsterbus, Goldliner, Metro or Glider, **operating on Friday 1st December**, due to Industrial action by SIPTU, GMB and UNITE unions.

In addition, the EA has been notified by UNITE the Union that members across the organisation are being called to take part in strike action on Friday 1st December in relation to a trade dispute linked to the EA Pay and Grading Review.

Where possible, we are taking steps to mitigate the impact of the action. However, given the Industrial action by Translink on the same day, **we are expecting significant disruption to school transport on Friday 1st December**, as well as some disruption to school meals and cleaning services. The strike action will also have an impact on the availability of Classroom Assistants which will affect Special Schools in particular.

Details of Strike Action:

- Wednesday, 29th November 2023 (half-day strike action) from 12 midnight to 12 noon by Teaching unions INTO, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU and UTU
- Friday, 1st December 2023 (full day strike action) – Translink - by frontline public transport trade unions SIPTU, GMB and UNITE
- Friday, 1st December 2023 (full day strike action) by non teaching union UNITE

We will make every effort to keep parents, children and young people informed on the latest updates in coming days via the EA webpage www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates. We would be also very grateful if you can continue to communicate any specific disruption in relation to your school to parents/carers via your local channels.

Translink Disruption

Over 57,000 children and young people in receipt of bus passes will be impacted, as well as fare paying pupils. This will affect pupils who attend both primary and post-primary schools and Further Education Colleges.

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Education Authority

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Parents are therefore strongly advised to make alternative arrangements for their child if they connect with a Translink bus service for any portion of their journey to and/or from school. This includes children who connect to a Translink service via an EA yellow bus, private hire bus or ferry service. EA cannot guarantee pupils will be able to complete their journey and strongly advise they confirm alternative arrangements.

Translink will communicate relevant passenger information through the media, via their website <https://www.translink.co.uk/industrialaction> through social media, in stations, and on buses and trains. The Translink contact centre will also remain open 028 9066 6630.

Disruption to EA (yellow) Bus Services

As a result of the strike action by UNITE the Union, we are anticipating some disruption to EA (yellow) bus services across the network on Friday 1st December. Private hire bus services and taxis will also not be impacted by the strike action.

We will publish details of services that will not operate on the EA website, but some services may be disrupted at such short notice that advance notification is not possible.

We would advise parents/carers to consider potential alternative arrangements in advance and check the website regularly – updates will be posted at 5.00 pm each evening:

www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates

I hope you find this information helpful and we will continue to keep you updated on the latest position.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew McDermott
EA Interim Assistant Director HR Services and Industrial Relations

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