

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's response to the Irish Government Department of Justice and Equality consultation on Seasonal Clock Changes

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is the third largest local government district within Northern Ireland, and shares a land border with Ireland's counties of Louth and Monaghan.

As noted above, the consultation asks three important questions:

1. Do you want to stop changing the clocks twice a year?
2. If the clock changes stop, do you want to remain on summer time or winter time?
3. What would your opinion be if this proposal were to give rise to different time zones between Ireland and Northern Ireland?

In general, there needs to be a critical evaluation as to the level of consideration of how the role of summertime arrangements varies between European Union Member States due to the interplay between longitude, latitude and time zone in determining daylight hours.

It is Council's understanding that the European Commission has proposed a Directive to end seasonal clock changes in the European Union in 2019 meaning Member States would be required to choose to apply 'permanent summer-time' or 'permanent winter-time'.

The implication of the proposed Directive is further complicated by Brexit, wherein should the United Kingdom and the European Union reach an agreement according to the terms of the draft Withdrawal Agreement, the United Kingdom would be required to implement the proposed Directive during the transition period.

Notwithstanding this, the overall implications for the United Kingdom as a whole are exacerbated by the devolution settlement with Northern Ireland, under which time is a devolved matter.

While time is a reserved matter in respect of Scotland and Wales, there is no equivalent reservation or exception for Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Act 1998 currently provides that obligations under EU law are an excepted matter, but under a potential no-deal scenario this would fall away. If the United Kingdom should then decide to maintain summertime arrangements, Northern Ireland (assuming the devolved institutions have been re-established) would have to choose between having a one-hour time difference for half

the year either with the Republic of Ireland or with the rest of the United Kingdom. The cumulative effect of this decision-making process, and outcome, may also in itself potentially adversely impact upon the promotion of good relations.

The implementation of different time zones between Ireland and Northern Ireland has also potential to have both a direct and indirect adverse equality of opportunity impact upon the daily life of individuals who reside in one jurisdiction and avail of public sector services / work in the other.

A specific example would be the impact on people with dependents with regard to child care arrangements related to current working hours in one jurisdiction and the operational hours of schools in the other.

Taking these matters into account Council believe the Irish Government should seriously consider the potential impact upon the daily lives of individuals, and whether there has been an adequate evaluation of alternative options, including the possibility of allowing individual Member States to choose whether or not to observe seasonal clock changes.

CONSULTATION ON SEASONAL CLOCK CHANGES

RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Thank you for including Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NI Chamber) in your consultation into the EU proposal to end seasonal clock changes in 2021.

NI Chamber is an award winning, quality assured, customer focused membership organisation with over 230 years commitment to the Northern Ireland economy. It is a well-known network for business with a membership of 1,200 businesses from across Northern Ireland, representing over 100,000 employees.

Our primary focus is to support business growth through export, working with a number of key stakeholders including Invest NI, InterTradelreland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland. NI Chamber is also a member of the British Chambers of Commerce and Chambers Ireland networks.

It is our understanding that the EU proposal to end seasonal clock changes in 2021 would mean that the twice-yearly clock change would be abolished and that the EU would either stay on the *'summer time'* or *'winter time'* clock meaning brighter or darker mornings/evenings depending on the choice made. The UK is expected to have exited the EU by the time these changes take place and has no current plans to change Daylight Saving Time. We appreciate the arrangements are different for Northern Ireland as time is a devolved matter.

We would like to concentrate our response on one of the questions that you ask on the impact of this proposal on introducing different time zones between Ireland and Northern Ireland. This would mean that there would be a one-hour time difference between Northern Ireland/the UK and the Republic of Ireland for 7 months of the year as clocks could go forward and back in Northern Ireland but remain unchanged in the Republic of Ireland.

2.0 The Border

The importance of border flows between the two economies in terms of trade, supply chains, work, shopping, tourism etc. have been well documented. For example, the Republic of Ireland accounts for around a third of Northern Ireland's exports. Almost 15% of Northern Irish firms sell across the border and over three-quarters of Northern Irish exporting firms export to Ireland only. Northern Ireland accounts for between 10 to 12% of Irish exports to the UK and around one-quarter of Irish exporting firms sell most of their export to Northern Ireland alone. It is estimated that over 30,000 people cross the border every day to work¹. The interconnectedness of the two economies is undisputed.

Different time zones could have practical implications for the thousands of businesses and people who cross the border as a regular part of their work and lives. For example, a business with operations on both sides of the border could find itself in the position that one of its operations in Newry will open an hour earlier and close an hour earlier than its operation in Dundalk less than half an hour away. This time difference may have implications for the business's systems, communications, logistics which in turn could have costs implications at the very least in the short term as businesses adapt to ensure that any disruption from different time zones are minimised. In terms of cross-border transport and logistics there could be extra costs incurred for adjusting schedules and timetables.

¹ InterTradelreland, September 2018

3.0 Impact on international trade

There could also be implications on trade with one piece of research suggesting that each hour of time difference reduces international goods trade by between 2% and 7%². This is because differences can mean reducing the amount of time in the normal working day in which real-time communication (e.g. telephone conversations and video-conferencing) can take place. This is particularly important if there is the need for real-time interaction between providers and buyers. The issues are different depending on different sectors and it is the case that technology has lessened the impact on trade of different time zones over time. Nevertheless, the suggestion is that there could be some cost and trade implications to any differences introduced at least in the short term as businesses/individuals adapt.

4.0 Impact on smaller firms

We believe that the changes could have more significant implications for our smallest firms. Cross border trade is particularly important to micro and small businesses in both jurisdictions and for many it is the first stepping-stone into the exporting arena. In fact, over 80% of Northern Ireland's smallest exporters sell to the Republic of Ireland alone. It is very important that any changes do not make it more difficult and/or more costly for these smallest firms in terms of trading practices. Neighbouring markets are typically easiest to enter and anything that makes them less accessible can only be damaging.

5.0 All-island energy market

The All Island energy market warrants specific consideration. It would be important to understand if time differences would require changes to ISEM operation systems which in turn could have cost and time implications to resolve. The effect on system peak in terms of how energy is used across the island of Ireland would need reviewed. Two different time zones could be challenging given that everything from dispatch instructions to market bids in the sector are time sensitive in that market and different time stamps could prove complicated. Greater consideration is needed of the implications of different time zones for the energy market from both operational and cost perspectives.

6.0 Conclusion

Northern Ireland is in the unique position of being the only part of the UK with a land border with another EU country. Our two economies are inextricably linked not least from a trading perspective and the Republic of Ireland's importance to Northern Ireland is critical. Brexit already poses significant challenges and we do not need another factor that could possibly make trading arrangements with Ireland more complicated. As a small open economy Northern Ireland needs to find ways to make it easier to expand participation in exporting - not make it more difficult.

We do believe this proposal requires further consideration and that the practical implications for businesses on both sides of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland need to be researched in more detail. We believe it would be useful to present examples of how the practicalities of two different time zones would play out and their implications on trade, costs and investment. As discussed, the sectoral perspective is also important with the Single Energy Market being a case in point.

We welcome the opportunity of discussing this important issue further with you.

//ENDS

For further information please contact:

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² Anderson, UEA, 2013

Hi,

The permanent change to summertime (UTC+1) will have little or no impact on the operations at the Port of Galway.

The Port operates on a 24hr basis, ships docking and sailing at all stages of the tide, during darkness and in daylight.

Stevedoring operations operate from 06:00hrs to 22:00hrs.

Tanker Operation operate on a 24hrs basis (00:01 to 23:59).

The length of the daylight hours does not change so there is no impact on the use or reliance of solar panels for charging of

navigational aids.

The table below are the times **for Galway** for the year 2021. The difference in time to Dublin is due to the longitudinal separation of the two cities

of approximately 11.5mins.

The greatest societal impact will be for port employees travelling to work in darkness or during civil twilight leaving a period of approximately 1 month

where travel times before civil twilight reaches 08:00hrs (13th December to 17th January). Civil Twilight can be considered as the approximate times

when street lighting is required.

Malin Head in North Donegal is the most affected by the change which is some 17minutes later than Dublin during the winter solstice.

Regards

Captain Brian Sheridan

Harbour Master

Port of Galway



14th November 2018

Ms Eileen Leahy,
Head of Corporate Services,
Department of Justice and Equality

RE: Consultation on Seasonal Clock Changes

Dear Eileen

I am delighted to have an opportunity to respond to this consultation on behalf of RCSI. As an expert in biological clocks and a Lecturer within RCSI, I have been following the initiative of the European Commission to abandon the annual clock-time changes in spring and autumn in the EU. I wish to respond to two of the questions raised.

Q1: Do you want to stop changing the clocks twice a year?

- Yes.

Q2: If the clock changes stop, do you want to remain on summer time or winter time?

- We should remain on wintertime. I would like to emphasize that the scientific evidence presently available (see references overleaf) indicates that installing permanent Standard Time (ST, or 'wintertime') is the best option for public health.
- With ST or wintertime, there will be more morning light exposure in winter and less evening light exposure in summer. This offers a range of health benefits including:
 - This will better synchronise the biological clock and people will sleep earlier relative to their work and school times (1).
 - The feeling of chronic jetlag (Social Jetlag) will be reduced compared to daylight savings time, the body will function better and mental performance will improve. Throughout the year, ST will be healthier than daylight savings time (DST).

- ST improves our sleep (1) and will be healthier for our heart (2) and our weight (3).
 - The incidence of cancer will decrease (4), in addition to reduced alcohol- and tobacco consumption (5).
 - People will be psychologically healthier (6) and performance at school and work will improve (7).
- In summary, abandoning clock changes will offer the unique nation-wide opportunity to improve general health by installing Standard Time.

These views are endorsed by the European Biological Rhythms Society. I would gladly explain our advice in more detail as required.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Annie Curtis

Lecturer

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References

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- 6) Borisenkov et al. (2017) Seven-year survey of sleep timing in Russian children and adolescents: chronic 1-h forward transition of social clock is associated with increased social jetlag and winter pattern of mood seasonality. *Biological Rhythm Research* 48:3-12.
- 7) Van der Vinne (2015) Timing of Examinations Affects School Performance Differently in Early and Late Chronotypes. *Journal of Biological Rhythms* 30:53-60.

To whom it may concern:

RTÉ Transmission Network are the authority responsible for the encoding and transmission of the National Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) platform Saorview, the encoding and transmission of the National Frequency Modulation (FM) Network consisting of RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ 2FM, RTÉ Lyric fm & RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, the provision of local transmission facilities for various local FM Radio Stations around the country, the provision of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) encoding and transmission facilities to the major cities of the Republic and finally the encoding provision of the national “in-fill” solution for Saorview DTT - Saorsat.

All of these systems transmit real-time, time of day (ToD) clocks, these clocks synchronise the Saorview approved DTT television and Set Top Box receiver population, this synchronisation enables the Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) within those receivers to function, on certain Set Top Box's this clock enables also recording and series linking functionality. On the FM network the time of day data is transmitted within Radio Data System (RDS) signal, again to provide synchronisation to both mobile FM car and fixed home FM radio receivers, the DAB network and Saorsat system operate in an identical manner.

Under the current IST/IWT arrangement, the authority engages in a exercise twice a year to ensure that all of these systems signal the correct time of day to the receiver population of the Republic, this exercise is quite logistic in manner and consumes significant resource in i) ensuring the change occurs ii) ensuring the signalled change is correct.

The current time change therefore introduces a degree of risk to the stability of our broadcast systems and we would therefore welcome the proposal to remove the Irish Summer Time / Irish Winter Time change.

Is mise le meas

Des



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Séanadh Ríomhphoist: Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún agus d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith faoi phribhléid dhlíthiúil. Is ar an seolaí amháin atá sé dírithe. Níl cead ag aon duine eile rochtain a fháil ar an ríomhphost seo. Mura tú an faighteoir beartaithe, tá cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipéail, dáileadh, nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh nó a fhágáil ar lár i dtaca leis an ríomhphost agus d'fhéadfadh sin a bheith mídhleathach. Tabhair ar aird le do thoil, d'fhéadfadh ríomhphost chuig, ó agus laistigh de RTÉ / 2rn a bheith faoi réir an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise 2014, agus d'fhéadfadh go ndéanfaí é a nochtadh.

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Seán Kelly MEP

Submission on European Commission Proposal to end Seasonal Clock Change

Having been part of a small group of MEPs that have worked to keep this issue to the fore since the beginning of my time in office in 2009, I think we can say with certainty that our efforts were justified given the overwhelming majority of EU citizens who agree that we should do away with the bi-annual clock change.

The Commission Proposal result shows the power and importance of the European Parliament, and indeed what can be achieved through sustained hard work on behalf of our constituents. The Commission were reluctant to do anything on this issue for many years now, but in February, my working group finally got the issue onto the agenda, and Parliament backed us in calling on the European Commission to conduct a thorough assessment of the practice.

The issue has a major impact on our citizens as shown in the recent public consultation on daylight savings time, which received 4.6 million responses – the highest ever engagement for an EU public consultation. EU citizens gave overwhelming support for the abolishment of the biannual clock change in that 84 percent of respondents favoured scrapping the biannual clock change. It is extremely welcome that the Commission are acting so quickly after the release of the consultation results. It is important that we listen to what the vast majority of people have asked for and to deliver it for them. I am also delighted that the Irish government is acting quickly in turn.

The disruption caused by the clock change has a detrimental impact on human health, according to a number of studies. My colleagues and I are concerned by the serious health and safety concerns that this change of time presents to citizens. Studies prove that going against the natural rhythm has a detrimental impact on sleep and overall health, leading to weakened immunity, increased anxiety and depression in some cases. Reports have shown that it even has a negative impact on tiredness in drivers, increasing the risk of accidents. Citizens also reported these examples in their consultation responses.

I believe it to be an unnecessary, archaic exercise and it is high time that we address the issue of daylight savings and put an end to this unnecessary practice. If the natural shift to winter time happened at a slower, normal rate, the impacts would be less stark and perhaps we would all benefit health-wise. An end to the clock change will bring important benefits to EU citizens.

This proposal has no implications for the State Examinations Commission

Regards,

Aidan

**Aidan Farrell,
Chief Executive Officer,
State Examinations Commission,
Cornamaddy,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath**

Direct Line (090) 6442771

Designated Public Official under *Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015*. See www.lobbying.ie

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

As a general principle, the Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI) - which represents some 18,000 teachers and lecturers in the second level, further and adult education and third level sectors of the Irish public education system - favours the EU Commission proposal to end seasonal clock changes in 2021.

However, there is a caveat. It relates to the possibility that the UK could oppose and/or not apply the Commission proposal.

Were the UK not to end season clock changes, there would be potentially adverse implications for particular cohorts of our members and students, not least those resident in border counties.

Just over 10,000 students from Ireland study in the UK/Northern Ireland at present. Any changes in clock times that leave Ireland at variance with Northern Ireland would be problematic. For example, in the North West Regional College in Derry, two thirds of all students enrolled are from the Republic of Ireland. Will that continue to be the case if a time difference is in place? If not, will additional funding be provided to institutions in the Republic of Ireland to create additional places with a view to facilitating these students to study locally?

Many students in border counties participate in work experience placements in Northern Ireland and a difference in time between the two jurisdictions would have its own implications in respect of the timing of placements, supervision of/visiting students on placements.

For students in the adult and further education sectors, it could have significant and possibly costly implications in terms of childcare arrangements.

For persons who work in the Republic but live in Northern Ireland, it goes without saying that any time difference as between the jurisdictions will have an impact on their work and home life.

A number of cross-border initiatives currently in place could also be impacted. For example, some Youthreach Centres in border counties can take students from Northern Ireland. These students might not participate if their start time is 8 a.m. as opposed to 9am.

I trust that these preliminary observations are of use.

Yours sincerely,

John MacGabhann

General Secretary

Teachers' Union of Ireland

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Hi Eoghan,

TG4 as an organisation has no view on the issue of Seasonal clock changes.

Regards

Neil

Neil Keaveney

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[\[IMAGE\]](#) [\[IMAGE\]](#) [\[IMAGE\]](#)

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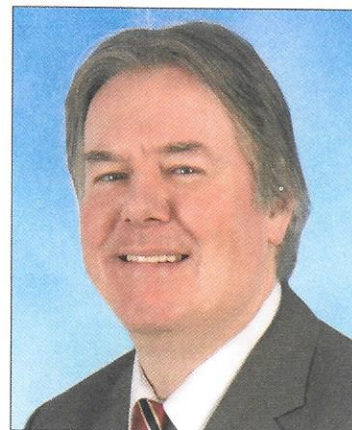
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30th November 2018

Submission Re: Consultation on Seasonal Clock Changes.

Dear Charlie,

In 2012, I introduced the 'Brighter Evenings Bill' which was debated in Dáil Eireann in July 2013. The bill proposed keeping summertime for a 3-year trial period and received significant support at its second reading in Dáil Eireann. Indeed the then Minister for Justice, our former colleague, Alan Shatter TD, did not call a vote against the bill but allowed the debate to be adjourned and for the bill to stay on the Clár of Dail Eireann for the remainder of the 31st Dáil (while the committee on

INDEPENDENT
DUBLIN BAY NORTH

Justice, Defence and Equality further considered the matter). Among those who strongly supported the bill were Deputies David Staunton, Eoghan Murphy, Senator Jerry Buttimer, Deputy Roisín Shorthall and former Deputy Pat Nulty. Minister Staunton, former Senator Fergal Quinn and myself all advocated the retention of summertime in different fora over the past 25 years.

(The 2012/2013 bill further proposed that in the year following the retention of summertime Ireland would then move the clocks forward by one hour in March during the 3-year trial period and then back to the now continuous summertime the next October. By this change Ireland would follow Central European Time from then on). In the UK this proposal was called SDST, Simple/Double Summer Time. However, the key thrust of my bill was to maintain our current summertime all year round.

In my opening and closing speeches at the private members debate in July 2013, I outlined the many powerful arguments for retaining summertime all year round (and if necessary initiating an enhanced summer time). My speeches are available at:

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2012-11-13/20/> and <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2013-07-05/3/>).

I recalled the 3 year experiment in all year round summertime led by British Labour Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, in 1968 to 1971 and this experiment was abandoned mainly due to the opposition of farmers in the North of Scotland. The key reasons for which I advocated all year round summertime include:

the significant health benefits of continuous summertime in combatting seasonal affective disorder "SAD" or 'the winter blues'; additional time for sport and recreation in brighter evenings, especially from November to February and on weekend evenings particularly in those months; much safer roads since the early evening is the most dangerous time for road deaths and research showing the start of summertime in Ireland each March was associated with reduction in road casualties in both morning and evening; school going children could be protected on darker winter mornings by following Scandinavian procedures whereby schools open later in the key Winter months; less darkness in the evenings is a deterrence to the incidence of crime and supportive of effective policing (and the timing of Halloween just after the clocks are put back is disastrous in many Irish urban areas); English research showing that energy consumption is significantly less when summertime

is retained all year round; all year round summertime would be a boon to the tourism and hospitality businesses in particular. I was contacted in 2012/2013 by people in the tourism industry who felt e.g that St. Patricks Day should be in a summertime zone. In the same era, there was strong support for all year round summertime from the small business and retail sectors. The IFA also told me that with modern technology and lighting, the extra period of morning darkness around the Winter equinox with year round summertime might make little difference. Farmers urged however that Ireland should move on year round summertime together with Britain.

In the 2012/2013 proposed legislation and in the Dáil debate, I emphasised the necessary involvement of the Assembly and people of Northern Ireland in any decision we would make regarding our time zone in the Republic. But, on the issue of different time zones between Ireland and Northern Ireland, I do not believe this would happen because there is also a strong body of opinion in the UK parliament advocating all year round summertime. There are of course examples of adjoining jurisdictions with different time zones e.g Portugal and Spain. Whatever about any possibility of the islands of Britain and Ireland being in

separate time zones, I would strongly favour the Republic and Northern Ireland staying in the same time zone.

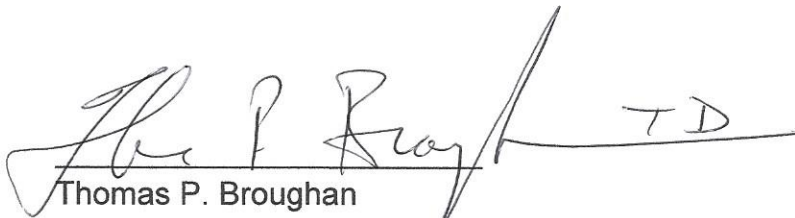
It is notable that polls indicated that a clear majority of the British people were in favour of year round summertime when the summertime experiment was discontinued in 1971. Support in the UK for the 'Lighter Later' movement remains strong (despite UK politics being convulsed with Brexit over the last two years) including among important civic society bodies like the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. A key argument of 'Lighter Later' campaign is that the extra hour of light in the evenings would be so valuable because they say 'most of the (UK) population sleep through the first hour of sunlight for much of the year' under the current time arrangements.

Deputy Staunton and myself discussed several scenarios for change following on the work of his Justice Committee in the 31st Dáil to limit winter time from about the 3rd or last Sunday in November to the first Sunday in February or e.g to 4 or 5 weeks on both sides of the Winter equinox at December 21st. The EU Commission may also have

considered such a proposal and clearly that approach would need approval all across the EU, EEA and the rest of Europe.

In conclusion, I welcome the recent move by the EU Commission for member countries to abandon switching back to 'Winter Time' on the last Sunday of October. I believe that retaining summertime from October 2019 would be broadly very beneficial to our people so that they can maximise the use of the available daily light in our northern latitude and keep the length of murky evenings to a minimum from November to February each year.

Very Best Wishes.



Thomas P. Broughan
Independent TD for Dublin Bay North