

SHIPPING SERVICE TO NORTH-WEST — CONTRACT

1430. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Transport

Why have you not put in place any arrangement for a shipping service, to the North West of this State once the current contract expires?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

Arrangements for a continued coastal shipping service to the north-west of this State have been put in place as I announced on 18 December 2009. Following a comprehensive tender process and a considered Government decision to continue to support the service, a major international shipping line, Jepsens, has been appointed to provide the service. This excellent service, widely welcomed by residents of the North West, is currently undertaking its maiden voyage.

I might add that this Government is providing an improved service, with expanded capacity and which will service northern and southern ports, will cost less and will ease the road transport task.