**Translink NI Railways marks International Level Crossing Awareness Day-**

**May 7th 2013**

On Tuesday May 7th, Translink NI Railways will be holding a series of events at key level crossings throughout Northern Ireland to mark the 5th International Level Crossing Awareness Day.  (ILCAD)

Transport Minister Danny Kennedy said:  “There are 64 level crossings and 99 private crossings across Northern Ireland used by thousands of people each day. It is important people are aware of the risks at level crossings and I would encourage as many people as possible to attend the series of events which will raise road safety awareness. Just as pedestrians and drivers need to pay attention to potential hazards when crossing a road or driving on the road network, users of level crossings need to be aware of the potential dangers associated with crossings.

“This year DRD Roads Service will be joining teams from Translink and the police issuing information leaflets and talking to motorists and pedestrians at level crossings in Antrim, Coleraine, Moira, Jordanstown, Whitehead and Dunmurry.”

This event was established in 2009 through a partnership with railway operators around the world, to raise awareness amongst pedestrians and motorists about the risks at level crossings.

ILCAD 2013 will also coincide with the Global UN Road Safety Week; its aim is to raise global, regional, national and local awareness about Road Safety issues, with particular attention to pedestrians. This will take place worldwide from 6th to 12th.

The key safety message for this this year’s ILCAD is *‘****Act Safely at Level Crossings’.***

Keith Pollock, Level Crossing Risk Coordinator, Translink NI Railways said, “The majority of level crossing users in Northern Ireland are responsible, however, we would like to take this opportunity to remind them to take care when crossing, don’t try to beat the barriers and prepare to stop when the red lights are flashing.

The increased use of mobiles and music devices can lead to distraction and the inability to hear the warning alarms at level crossings.  We will be advising pedestrians to pay particular attention when crossing on foot.

We have also written to the owners of private crossings asking them to review or implement their ‘safe system of working’ to ensure that they, they families and any contractors working for them remain safe.

By working together we can prevent potentially dangerous incidents on the railway.”

Information on the ILCAD 2013 can be found at [www.ilcad.org/](http://www.ilcad.org/) .

For further information on Translink’s safety programmes go to [www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk).

**ENDS**

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