

## **Translink NI Railways supports International Level Crossing Awareness Day**

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Translink NI Railways launched its preparations for the International Level Crossing Awareness Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> at a special event for agricultural workers and suppliers at the rail simulator at Adelaide Rail Training Academy.

ILCAD was established in 2009 through a partnership with the UIC, the railway community, the European Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), to raise awareness among road users and pedestrians of the risks at level crossings.

**Translink brought the group to the rail simulator where they were given the opportunity to 'drive' a train and discuss the issues and challenges they face while using level crossings as part of their day to day activity.**

**Keith Pollock, Level Crossing Risk Coordinator, Translink said, "We are pleased to mark the ILCAD in NI Railways by educating our crossing users to keep vigilant and stay safe this summer.**

This activity is all part of our on-going safety campaign to promote the safe use of user worked crossings, which includes visits to landowners, community engagement and training for crossing users as well as safety initiatives for young farmers.

We will be encouraging responsible behaviour around the rail network on June 7<sup>th</sup> with employees at level crossings in Coleraine and Moira handing out safety leaflets to motorists and pedestrians."

Keith continued,

"While the majority of crossing users are responsible and use their private crossings correctly, we would still ask them to remind suppliers and contractors visiting their premises of their safety obligations when using their crossing.

"We continue to spread these important safety messages as widely as possible and earlier this year we mailed copies of our revised safety booklet to crossing users and a large number of service providers."

"Through our community engagement work we have closed almost 40 private crossings in the past 18 months, in partnership with the owners. This is something we want to build on

and will continue to work closely with crossing owners to find alternative access to their land, where possible.”

Translink is keen to work with farmers on the safe use of user worked crossings and what role they can play in promoting their safe use. We are always happy to discuss any issues at a crossing and would urge anyone who would like to learn more or require additional information or safety advice to get in touch with us on 02890 355444.”

Greenisland Farmer Henry Woodside said, “It’s good to see Translink raising awareness of safety at level crossings. As a crossing owner, the safety of my family and the suppliers and contractors who use it, is a huge priority for me.

I’ve really enjoyed this trip to the rail and signalling simulator which has helped me gain a better understanding of what a train driver can and cannot do.”

Additional copies of "The safe use of user worked crossings" are available from Translink by calling the number above and can also be downloaded at [www.translink.co.uk/privatecrossings](http://www.translink.co.uk/privatecrossings)

**ENDS**