No 10-ton lorries allowed on bridge

By KATHRYN HAYES

IT will be at least three more weeks before Sarsfield Bridge re-opens to all traffic, Limerick Corporation has confirmed.

And until that time, vehicles exceeding 10 tons in weight will not be allowed to cross the city's main bridge.

Murray, there is no danger if the bridge is used by authorised traffic, but the weight restriction, he explained, was necessary when "some degree of corrosion" was discovered.

"In the course of repair work being carried out to the swivel span on Sarsfield Bridge, it was discovered that some degree of corrosion had occurred on the beams supporting this portion of the Bridge," said Mr Murray, adding, "Consequently it was deemed necessary to place a 10-tonne weight restriction on Sarsfield Bridge."

In the meantime, 24-hour garda surveillance is in operation on the bridge to ensure that no vehicles exceeding the specified weight cross Sarsfield bridge.

Almost £300,000 will be spent on renovating the swivel bridge at Sarsfield Street.

These renovations will include the strengthening of the metal structure underneath Sarsfield Bridge, and also a new railing between the road and the footpath.

Located at the Dunnes Stores' end of Sarsfield Bridge, the swivel bridge, completed in 1923, was closed permanently to all river traffic in 1963.

According to Limerick Corporation, there is no question of it ever being reopened again.