



**Determination order for the introduction of Leap  
card multi-operator (Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann  
and Luas) daily and weekly capping rates**

**Determination No. 7**

**November 2013**

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## 1. Introduction

The National Transport Authority (the Authority) entered into Public Service Contracts with Dublin Bus (Bus Átha Cliath) and Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) in December 2009 for the provision of transport passenger and ancillary services. The services that Dublin Bus and Iarnród Éireann provide under these contracts attract a public service obligation payment in line with EU regulation 1370/07. Dublin Bus and Iarnród Éireann are 100% owned by Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) and CIÉ is a statutory body with ownership vested in the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

The Authority has the statutory obligation to secure the provision of light railway passenger services in the Greater Dublin Area (section 48 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008). The Authority has currently assigned these functions to the Railway Procurement Authority (RPA) under the terms allowed by the Act; however, matters relating to Luas fare alterations require the prior approval of the Authority. Transdev Ireland operates Luas, Dublin's light rail tram system, under contract with the RPA.

The Leap card is currently in use on a number of bus and rail operators and the Authority has been gradually extending the functionality and various features available on the Leap card, with one of these specific features being fare capping.

Fare Capping is where there is a maximum charge per day or week for journeys done with a Leap card. So, if a customer makes a lot of trips with their Leap card during a Daily or Weekly (Monday to Sunday) time period, the amount they spend will be capped and the Leap card system will make sure they never pay more than the fare cap limit. Capping aims to make paying for public transport easier as users will be able to Pay-As-You-Go without having to decide in advance if they wish to commit to the up-front expense of buying a daily or weekly ticket.

So far, Fare Capping has been limited to just single operators, meaning there is a separate cap for each individual operator. Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann and Luas currently have single operator caps in place.

However, the introduction of multi-operator daily and weekly fare capping levels for adults, students and children will see the benefits of capping extended to passengers who travel with more than one of the operators.

## 2. Current single operator capping levels

Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann and Luas Leap card single operator daily and weekly capping rates are outlined below:

Cap	Iarnród Éireann			Luas (RPA)			Dublin Bus		
	Adult	Student	Child	Adult	Student	Child	Adult	Student	Child
<b>Daily</b>	9.20	6.90	3.10	6.40	5.00	2.50	6.90	5.00	2.50
<b>Weekly</b>	35.50	27.00	12.00	23.50	18.00	8.20	27.50	20.00	8.20

The above capping levels are currently in use but as they are single-operator capping rates, the amount that you spend with one operator will not affect the point at which you hit the cap with another operator.

## 3. Determination by the Authority

The Authority has determined that the Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann and Luas multi-operator approved fare capping rates can be implemented from the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and must be implemented by the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014, unless there are technical reasons why this cannot be done that are agreed by the Authority. Naturally, all three operators will have to implement the new multi-operator fare capping rates at the same time. Should the new capping rates not be introduced as per the above deadlines and where there is no acceptable reason for the delay, then current individual operator capping levels will be reduced by the Authority.

Having considered a number of factors, the Authority has determined that the Leap card multi-operator daily and weekly fare capping levels for adults, students and children on Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann and Luas services are to be at the rates outlined in blue below:

### Approved Leap card multi-operator fare capping levels on services

Cap	Iarnród Éireann			Luas (RPA)			Dublin Bus		
	Adult	Student	Child	Adult	Student	Child	Adult	Student	Child
Existing single-operator capping levels									
<b>Daily</b>	9.20	6.90	3.10	6.40	5.00	2.50	6.90	5.00	2.50
<b>Weekly</b>	35.50	27.00	12.00	23.50	18.00	8.20	27.50	20.00	8.20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New multi-operator capping levels									
<b>Daily</b>	10.00	7.50	3.50	10.00	7.50	3.50	10.00	7.50	3.50
<b>Weekly</b>	40.00	30.00	14.00	40.00	30.00	14.00	40.00	30.00	14.00

There are a number of benefits to this new multi-operator Leap card proposal, including:

- This is another step in having a modern, innovative and integrated fares system for Dublin;
- It guarantees daily and weekly fare maximums and is more hassle free than having to pre-purchase tickets, few of which apply across all operators;
- Customers who make any number of journeys won't pay any more than the fare cap;
- Fare capping provides certainty of cost for regular travellers using the Leap card;
- Fare capping happens automatically, so customers just need to use their Leap card as normal;
- Customers don't need to decide in advance if they want to buy a daily or weekly ticket;
- The fare capping system is convenient and is adaptable to customers' unique travel patterns;
- Customers will be rewarded when they take extra journeys as they won't pay beyond the cap;
- With this further enhancement, it is another reason to switch to using the Leap card.

Customers should be aware that even when they hit the cap value, they should still Touch-On and Touch-Off on rail as normal in order to have a valid ticket. Dublin Bus customers only need to Touch-On.

The introduction of a multi-operator cap for Dublin city is a major enhancement in the fares structure available to public transport customers. Once customers hit the daily or weekly cap, any further journeys fully covered by the cap will effectively be made for free. Although this is clearly a very advantageous development for customers, there is also a potential downside for the operators of losing out on the fares forgone, i.e. the additional fares that customers would previously have paid beyond the various caps. The caps have been set, taking account of the operators' current financial circumstances.

This downside needs to be tempered with the fact that many of the improvements that are being made to the operators' fares structures in the city should encourage greater public transport use. These improvements include the certainty that will exist for daily and weekly fare limits, not having to purchase tickets in advance and overall, having a ticketing system that is more adaptable to customer needs and journey patterns.

#### **4. Services where capping will apply**

Fare capping and the benefits of the new feature will be available to customers who use a Leap card to pay for their regular Dublin Bus journeys.

Fare capping and the benefits of the new feature will be available to customers who use a Leap card to pay for their Iarnród Éireann journeys in the Dublin area Short Hop Zone that includes all stations between Balbriggan, Greystones/Kilcoole, Maynooth and Hazelhatch.

All Luas services will contribute towards the cap.

Regarding the higher cost special Dublin Bus services, i.e. Nitelink, Xpresso Zone 2 and the Outer Suburban Zone 2 fares, a flat fare of €2.50 will be allocated to the cap for adults and students and €1.15 will be allocated to the Child cap for those services.

Dublin Bus' Airlink, tours, special events and private contract services will not be included in the Leap fares cap.

#### **5. Conclusion**

A key benefit of the introduction of the Leap card multi-operator fare capping feature on Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann and Luas services is that it is a further stepping stone in implementing the Authority's policy of having fare arrangements that facilitate multi-leg and multi-modal journeys and also that customers can let Leap do the work for them rather than having to pre-plan ticket buying.

The introduction of multi-operator daily and weekly Leap card fare capping is therefore a further positive development for customers. It will see greater certainty with fares, it will allow additional travel on three operators' networks at no extra cost once customers have made a number of journeys with the Leap card and have reached the fare cap, and it will be a major enhancement in our fares systems in Dublin city and one that is more adaptable to customer needs and journey patterns.