



**The Competition Authority**  
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

Gerry Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Transport Authority  
Dún Scéine  
Iveagh Court  
Harcourt Lane  
Dublin 2

**By Post and Email**

27 November 2013

**Re: Supplemental Consultation on proposals to directly award contracts for public bus services from December 2014**

Dear Gerry,

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2013 regarding the National Transport Authority's supplemental consultation on proposals to directly award a contract for public bus services to Bus Éireann in the region outside Dublin City from December 2014.

I understand that NTA is seeking views on one particular supplemental matter in relation to possible routes to be tendered outside Dublin City. As you are aware, in the Competition Authority's submission on the NTA's Proposal to Directly Award a Public Bus Services Contract to Bus Éireann in 2014, we did not make comments on specific routes that would be most suited to competitive tendering in 2016. Rather, our submission focused on the method and merit which the NTA employed in the process of selecting possible routes to be tendered out.

In a similar vein, it is not obvious from the supplemental consultation how the routes identified were selected by the NTA. Therefore, we have no views on the specific routes to be tendered outside Dublin City outlined in the supplemental consultation. However, we are concerned about the lack of information on the rationale for the NTA's selection of the original set of routes – a concern which is not assuaged by the lack of information provided in the supplemental consultation document as to why the PSO bus services currently operated by Bus Éireann on the commuter corridor to the west of Dublin city are now being considered for competitive tendering and withdrawal from the next Direct Award contract in 2016, in substitution for the portion of the Dublin coastal commuter services identified in the September 2013 Consultation Paper. We also remain concerned that there appears to be no information available to potential tenderers on the current level of subsidy attached to the routes.

If you would like to discuss our submissions, please feel free to contact my assistant Mark Wilkinson ([mw@tca.ie](mailto:mw@tca.ie); 8045417) to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Isolde Goggin  
Chairperson

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