



**Determination order for the introduction of
Dublin Bus' Leap card single operator daily and
weekly capping rates**

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1. Introduction

The National Transport Authority (the Authority) entered into a Public Service Contract with Dublin Bus (Bus Átha Cliath) in December 2009 for the provision of bus passenger and ancillary services within the county of Dublin and contiguous areas. The services that Dublin Bus provide under this contract attracts a public service obligation payment in line with EU regulation 1370/07. Dublin Bus is 100% owned by Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) and CIÉ is a statutory body with ownership vested in the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

As part of a process of improving public transport service quality the Authority has been developing a number of initiatives such as the real time public transport information, the Authority's National Journey Planner, investment in the bus and rail fleet, the reconfiguration of city bus services, station improvements and the Leap card. 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 on one public transport operator. 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.

2. Proposal by Operator

Dublin Bus has written to the Authority requesting approval for the introduction of their Leap card single operator daily and weekly capping rates at the levels outlined below:

Dublin Bus' requested Leap card single operator fare capping levels taking into account fares for 2014

	Daily fare cap	Weekly fare cap
Adult	€7.60	€33.00
Student	€5.70	€24.75
Child	€3.30	€11.00

3. Determination by the Authority

The Authority has determined that Dublin Bus can implement the approved fare capping rates from the 1st November 2013 and must implement them from the 1st December 2013 unless there are technical reasons why this cannot be done that are approved by the Authority. Should the new capping rates not be introduced as per the above deadlines and where there is no acceptable reason for the delay, then this will forestall the implementation of any new potential increases on Dublin Bus' Leap card fares until the issue is resolved.

Having considered a number of factors, the Authority has determined that the Leap card single operator daily and weekly fare capping levels are to be at the rates outlined below:

Approved adult Leap card single operator fare capping levels on Dublin Bus services

Adult daily fare cap	Adult weekly fare cap
€6.90	€27.50

Comparison of Leap Card Cap with the equivalent cash ticket

	Leap card	Cash ticket	Leap discount
Daily fare cap	€6.90	€7.60 (2014 request fare)	-9.2%
Weekly fare cap	€27.50	€27.50 (5 days only) (2014 request fare)	Same value but extra 2 days journeys with cap

Approved student Leap card single operator fare capping levels on Dublin Bus services

Student daily fare cap	Student weekly fare cap
€5.00	€20.00

Approved child Leap card single operator fare capping levels on Dublin Bus services

Child daily fare cap	Child weekly fare cap
€2.50	€8.20

There are a number of benefits to this new Dublin Bus Leap card proposal, including:

- The Leap daily Cap is 9.2% cheaper than the one-day cash ticket
- 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
- Dublin Bus' fare capping is another improved feature of using the Leap card; customers already have capping on Luas and Iarnród Éireann Dublin area services
- 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

Customers should be aware, however, that even when they hit the cap value, they should still Touch-On as normal in order to have a valid ticket.

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, including Nitelink, Xpresso and Outer Suburban Fares. However for 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. Airlink, tours, special events and private contract services will not be included in the Leap fares cap.

As mentioned above, only a contribution of €2.50 from the Nitelink, Xpresso Zone 2 and the Outer Suburban Zone 2 fares will be made towards the cap due to the differing price structure and the premium nature of these services. So for instance, the current price of the Xpresso Zone 2 fare is €4.00 on Leap and if someone made this journey then a contribution of €2.50 from the €4.00 fare would be made towards the cap. The full cost of the Xpresso Zone 1 and the Outer Suburban Zone 1 fares will contribute towards the cap.

4. Conclusion

A key benefit of the introduction of the Leap card fare capping feature on Dublin Bus 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 Dublin Bus' Leap card single operator daily and weekly capping rates is therefore a further positive development for customers. It will see greater certainty with fares and will allow free travel on the Dublin Bus network once customers have made a number of journeys with the Leap card and have reached the fare cap.