



**Determination order for the introduction of  
Iarnród Éireann's student and child 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 Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) in December 2009 for the provision of all national rail passenger services. The services Iarnród Éireann provides under this contract attract a public service obligation payment in line with EU regulation 1370/07. Iarnród Éireann 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. Current operator capping levels

Iarnród Éireann's adult Leap card single-operator daily and weekly capping levels are outlined below:

### Current adult Leap card single operator fare capping levels on Iarnród Éireann services

Adult daily fare cap	Adult weekly fare cap
<b>€9.20</b>	<b>€35.50</b>

### 3. Determination by the Authority

The Authority has determined that the Iarnród Éireann single-operator student and child 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.

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

#### Approved Leap card single operator fare capping levels on Iarnród Éireann services

Cap	Student	Child
Daily fare cap	6.90	3.10
Weekly fare cap	27.00	12.00

There are a number of benefits to this new Iarnród Éireann Leap card proposal, including:

- The student and child Leap caps are good value, tech-savvy and flexible, all characteristics that students and children should enjoy
- 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
- Iarnród Éireann's fare capping is another improved feature of using the Leap card
- Fare capping happens automatically, so customers just need to use their Leap card as normal
- Students, children and parents don't need to decide in advance if they want to buy a daily or weekly ticket if they choose to use the Leap card daily and weekly caps instead
- 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

It is important to point out that customers don't need to do anything further to avail of fare capping. They use their Leap card as normal, making sure to Touch On and Touch Off for all journeys and then the fare caps will be applied automatically. Students do naturally need to be using a student Leap card to avail of the student cap and children need to be using a child Leap card to avail of the child cap. Students will pay adults fares for each individual journey on their student Leap card, but they

will reach the student cap much earlier than an adult thereby benefiting from a cheaper offer when they make a number of journeys and reach the daily or weekly cap. Children will pay individual child or schoolchild fares for their journeys and these will contribute towards the cap.

Customers should be aware that even when they hit the cap value, they should still Touch On and Touch Off as normal in order to have a valid ticket. 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, (see the map in Appendix A).

#### **4. Conclusion**

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

The introduction of Iarnród Éireann's 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 in the Short Hop Zone once customers have made a number of journeys with their Leap card and have reached the fare cap.

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## Appendix A

### Iarnród Éireann's Dart and Commuter Short Hop Zone

