

Public transport fares to go up from December 1st

National Transport Authority sets “significant” increases to protect service delivery

Leap Card fares increase – but are still much cheaper than cash

November 16, 2012

The National Transport Authority has today (16 November, 2012) set the increases that are to be applied to cash, Leap and pre-paid ticket fares across all contracted public transport services provided by Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and the Railway Procurement Agency (Luas).

Some of these fares increases are significant, and customers are therefore urged to use the Leap Card, as the new Leap fares will be as cheap as or cheaper than the current cash fares – and substantially cheaper than the new cash fares.

The fares increases have been allowed in order to protect public transport service delivery as much as possible at a period when state subvention for public transport has been reduced each year since 2009, as a result of Ireland’s difficult economic circumstances. Compounding the problem have been falling patronage and farebox revenues and increasing fuel costs. Therefore, despite the companies’ cost-cutting programmes, fares increases are needed so that the transport companies can continue to run their services.

Dublin Bus cash fares will rise by between 5.7% (for 13+ stages) and 17.9% (for 1-3 stages), with Leap increasing by 2.1% and 12% for the same journeys (from lower bases). Prepaid tickets will also go up – by amounts ranging from 2.74% (Rambler 5-day child ticket) to 16.8% (Travel-90 10-journey ticket). If current cash customers on Dublin Bus switch to Leap they will be able to keep their costs to 2012 levels.

On **Bus Éireann**, fares increases have been increased by an average of 6% across all ticket types. Leap Card will be phased in for Bus Éireann customers from early 2013, and 2012 fares will apply on Leap. Therefore, when current cash customers on Bus Éireann in the Dublin region can switch to Leap, they will be able to keep their costs to 2012 levels.

On **Irish Rail**, Dublin commuter cash fares will increase by 9.1% (Zone G adult single) to 14% (Zone A adult return). Again, Leap fares have increased by lesser amounts across nearly all ticket types, and Irish Rail cash

customers are encouraged to migrate to Leap to contain their commuting costs. Inter-city fares will increase by significantly lesser percentages, by 0.89% to 3.92%.

The approved fares also continue the Authority's process of gradually eliminating anomalous fares across the Irish Rail network.

Some **Luas** cash fares will remain unchanged, while others will increase by up to 5.7%; an overall average of 2% (weighted by sales volume). The Authority has commenced the phased alignment of fares on the Red and Green Luas lines, in preparation for Luas Broombridge, which will facilitate increased passenger transfer between the two lines.

These fare increases are sanctioned to take effect from 1st December at the earliest. There may, however, be technical or operational reasons why an operator may not be in a position to apply the allowed increases across all products and fares until sometime after December 1st. The four operators, Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, Luas and Irish Rail will announce their own specific arrangements to their customers and to the wider public in advance of fares increases being implemented.

This is the second of a two-staged annual determination of fares; price increases for annual and monthly tickets were announced in September 2012.

Note also, that as a result of recent significant initiatives of the National Transport Authority - Real Time Passenger Information, Leap Card in Dublin, a National Journey Planner (online and App) - the public transport offering is improving and, as a result, patronage losses have moderated in 2012.

Furthermore there has been substantial investment in the bus fleet, improved bus priority, and in improving rail stations. And city bus networks have been re-designed to be more efficient and to better match customer needs.

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Editor note – full details, including tables of all fares changes and the [Fares Determination Report](#) are available here.

For more information: Sara Morris, National Transport Authority, 01 879 8300 / 086 385 8431