
Initial review of withdrawal of some Bus Éireann licensed services



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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Expressway is the brand name for Bus Éireann's commercial intercity and interurban network of bus services. These services are licensed by the National Transport Authority under the provisions of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009 and the Authority's published 'Guidelines for the Licensing of Public Bus Passenger Services'¹. Similar to other commercial bus operators under license to the Authority, Bus Éireann receives no Public Service Obligation (PSO)² compensation for the provision of *Expressway* services.

1.2 Withdrawal of services

Bus Éireann has announced the withdrawal of a number of services and reductions in other services as follows:

Route	Route location	Action	Date of Implementation
X7	Clonmel – Dublin via Kilkenny	Withdrawal of route	12 th March 2017
X12	Limerick – Dublin via Nenagh, Roscrea & Portlaoise	Reduction in services	12 th March 2017
20X20	Galway – Dublin via Athlone	Reduction in services	12 th March 2017
21	Westport - Athlone	Withdrawal of route	16 th April 2017
33	Derry - Dublin	Withdrawal of BÉ services on the route	28 th May 2017

2. Route analysis and travel solutions

2.1 Alternative services and travel solutions

The Authority's initial assessment is that for all the routes other than Route 21, there are sufficient alternative services to meet the demand for travel.

¹ Available here: http://www.nationaltransport.ie/downloads/guidelines_for_licensing_public_buses.pdf

² 'public service obligation' means a requirement defined or determined by a competent authority in order to ensure public passenger transport services in the general interest that an operator, if it were considering its own commercial interests, would not assume or would not assume to the same extent or under the same conditions without reward. (REG. 1370/2007)

Route X7

A detailed assessment is carried out in a separate report. The conclusion of that report is that there are sufficient services offered by JJ Kavanagh's Route 717 which operates 98 services per week from Clonmel to Dublin via Kilkenny. Some amendments will be required for Locallink service 817C serving Carrick-on-Suir to Grangemockler to maintain the public service obligation and connect into JJ Kavanagh's 717 service.

Route X12

Bus Éireann have announced a withdrawal of 24 services per week from a total of 130 on their Limerick to Dublin via Nenagh, Roscrea and Portlaoise service.

There are a number of alternative services available such as JJ Kavanagh Route 735 which provides 112 services per week between Limerick & Dublin via Nenagh, Roscrea & Portlaoise. Iarnród Éireann also provides 26 weekly rail services from Nenagh and Roscrea providing connections to Dublin.

There is a high volume of bus and rail services from Limerick to Dublin, therefore no additional services are proposed by the Authority.

Route 20/X20

Bus Éireann have announced a withdrawal of 28 services per week from a total of 221 services.

There are a number of alternative services available such as Citylink Route 763 which provides 98 weekly departures between Galway & Dublin via intermediate locations.

There is a high volume of bus and rail services from Galway to Dublin, therefore no additional services are proposed by the Authority.

Route 21

Bus Éireann have announced a withdrawal of route 21 which currently provides 28 services per week from Westport to Athlone. The Authority has determined that there is a public service obligation to continue to provide services between Westport and Athlone.

The Authority is considering amending the existing PSO service 440 to provide 4 services per day in each direction from Westport to Athlone supplemented by 2 services per day in each direction on route 440A from Westport to Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK). This would result in a doubling of the existing services.

A more detailed assessment report will be published later with details of the route and timetables.

Route 33

Bus Éireann have announced a withdrawal of route 33 which currently provides 28 services per week from Derry to Dublin.

There are a number of alternative services on the Derry to Dublin route. Translink operates 42 services per week on the same route and it is our understanding that they will be retaining those services.

Bus Éireann's Expressway route 32 operates 126 services per week via the same route except between Strabane and Derry.

Translink Route 273 operates 201 services per week from Derry to Strabane which would connect to Bus Éireann route 32.

There are sufficient alternative services provided by Translink and Bus Éireann and therefore it is not proposed to provide any additional services.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Conclusion

The range and availability of alternative public transport services from the locations affected by the withdrawal of Bus Éireann Route X7 and 33 and the reduction in X12 and 20/X20 is considered to be adequate to meet demand.

However there is a public service obligation to continue to provide services to the locations affected by the withdrawal of Route 21. The Authority is planning to provide 4 services per day in each direction from Westport to Athlone supplemented by 2 services per day in each direction on route 440A from Westport to Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK).