

National Fares Strategy Briefing



27th April 2023

Background to the Fares Determination

The new fares announced today are based on NTA's **National Fares Strategy** published last year. Under that Strategy, fares are to be determined on a more equitable and easy-to-understand basis. The cost per kilometre travelled is to be more consistent, and will be related to the straight line distance between the origin and destination of journey.

Last year's Fares Strategy also announced that a Dublin City Zone and a Dublin Commuter Zone were to be introduced. The Dublin City Zone is to extend approximately 23km from the city, and broadly equates to the existing 90-minute fare zone. The Dublin Commuter Zone extending to approximately 50km from Dublin city centre will include towns such as Drogheda, Navan, Trim, Enfield, Clane, Prosperous, Newbridge, Kildare, Greystones and Wicklow.

Background to the National Fares Strategy

Reason for fares changes

The current structures in operation on Public Service Obligation (PSO) services are not always equitable, consistent or easy to understand for passengers. Key issues include:

- The fare charged for similar distance trips can vary considerably depending on the journey and location in Ireland;
- Fares are often calculated by route travelled, or corridor used instead of crow fly distance, penalising people who have to take indirect routes to reach their destination.
- There are no obvious rules for how bus fares are generated in many areas. For example, PSO bus fares are frequently lower where alternative commercial bus services are available.
- Intercity Rail fares currently vary by route, which can be difficult for the general passenger to understand. There are also large variations in fare at the boundary between Intercity and Commuter services.
- Transferring between bus and rail often costs extra.
- This lack of understanding and consistency can lead to passenger frustration, particularly where someone feels they are being overcharged for their journey.

Today's Fares Determination

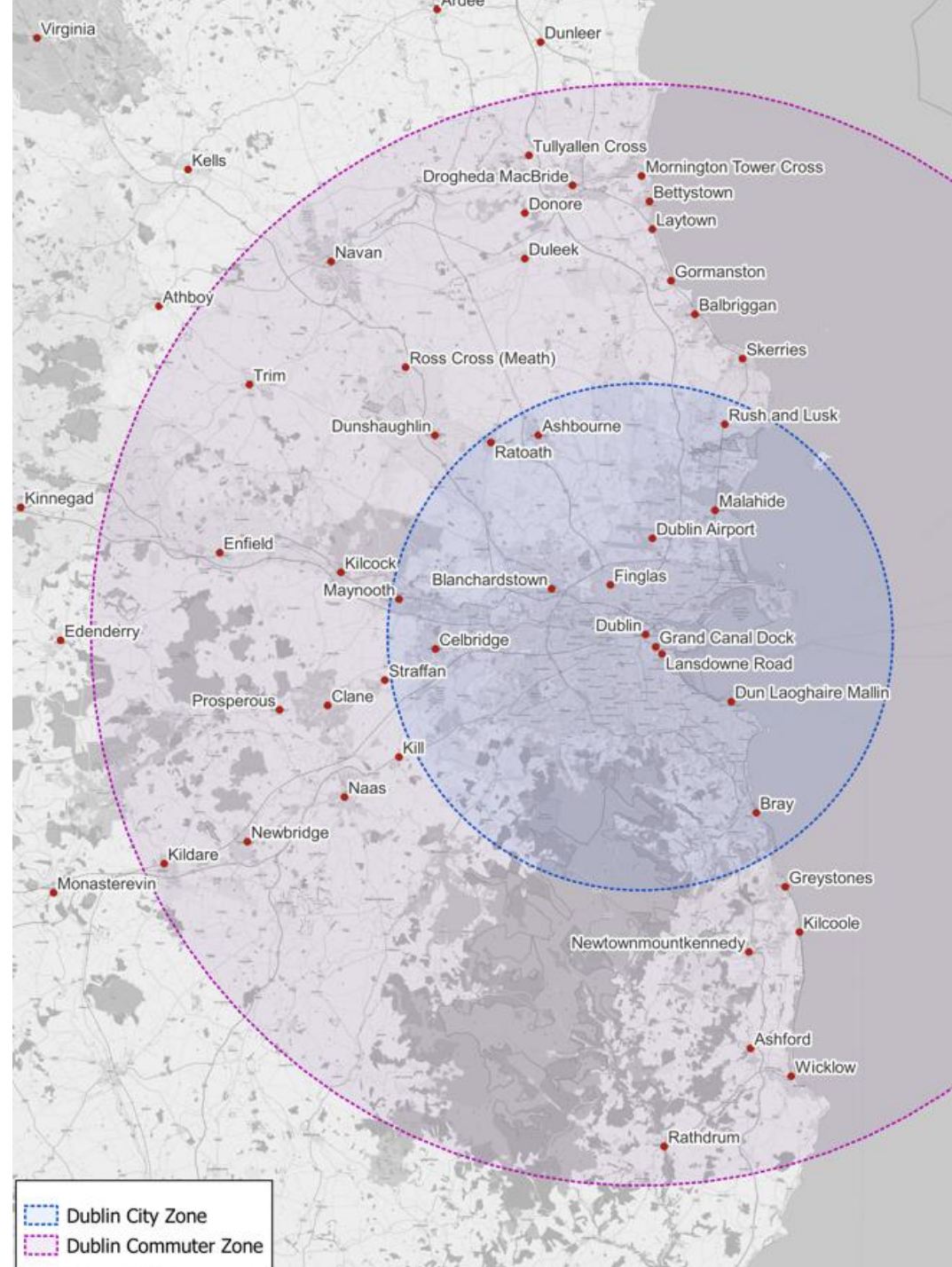
The Fares Determination published today focuses largely on Dublin and the surrounding commuter area. It is the first stage in the implementation of the National Fares Strategy. Upcoming fares determinations will see the full rollout of the Strategy to all PSO services in Ireland.

The focus in the January 2024 Fares Determination is to:

- Align city and commuter fare zones in the Greater Dublin Area and make them more equitable
- Create consistent fares zones that apply across all PSO public transport – bus, rail and Luas
- Reduce discrepancies between Dublin city and Dublin commuter fares
- Reduce discrepancies between Dublin commuter fares and those applying for travel to Dublin outside the commuter area

New Fare Zones for the Greater Dublin Area

- Dublin City Zone
 - up to 23km from Dublin city centre
- Dublin Commuter Zone
 - Up to 50km from Dublin city centre

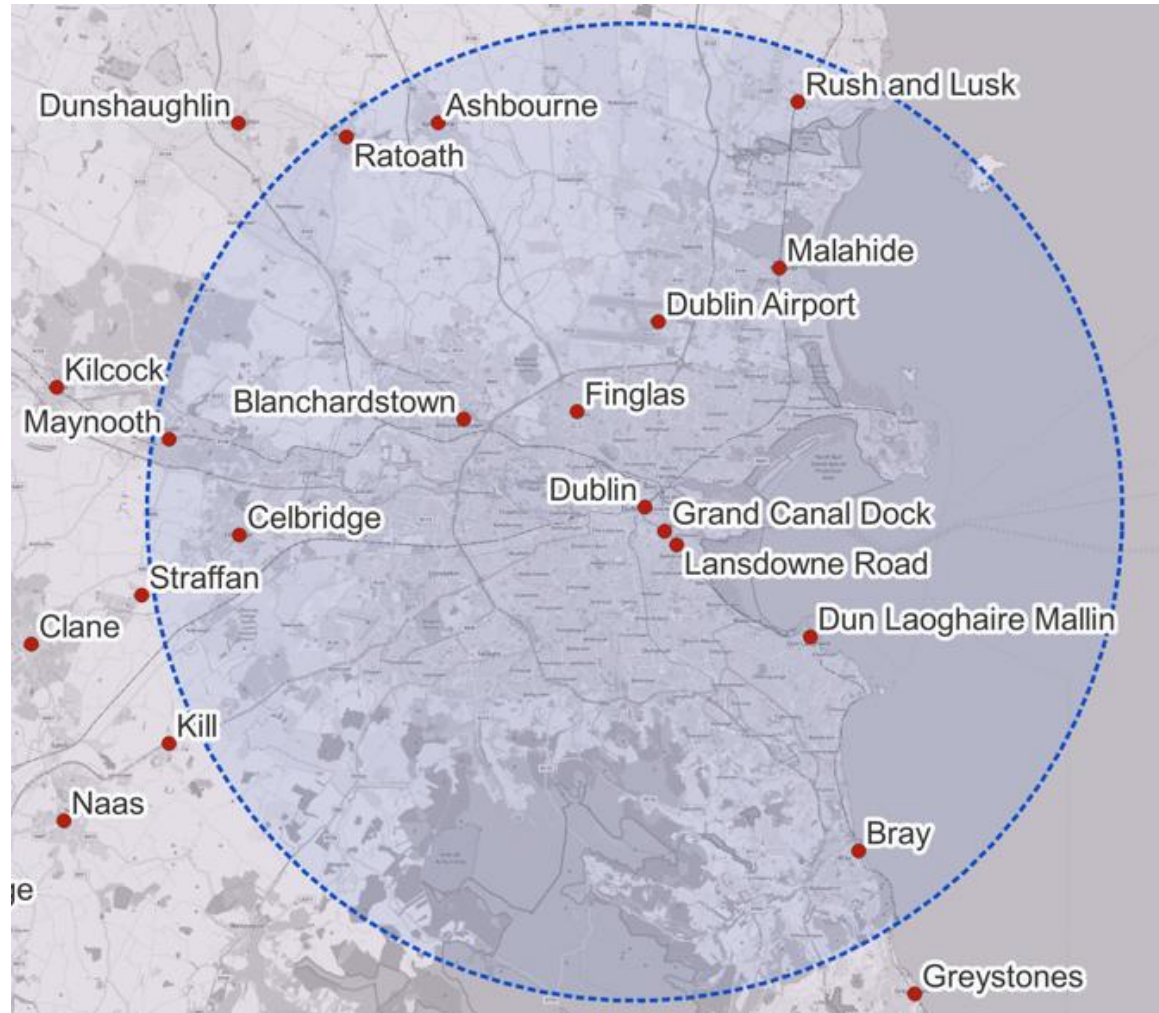


Fares Determination - Dublin City Zone

The Dublin City Zone is an extended version of the current TFI 90 Zone, covering new areas such as Ashbourne and Ratoath.

The TFI-90 €2 Leap fare, which allows passengers free transfer between Dublin Bus, Luas and most DART, commuter rail and Go-Ahead Ireland services in Dublin, was introduced in 2021. It has been a huge success and has contributed to the increase in passenger numbers recorded across the city's network last year.

- The €2 TFI-90 fare will remain in place in the City Zone
- Commuter bus fares from the City Zone into Dublin city centre will be set at €2.40, matching Dublin Bus "Xpresso" Leap fares
- The "Short" Leap Fare will increase by 20c to €1.50, and apply consistently across all operators.



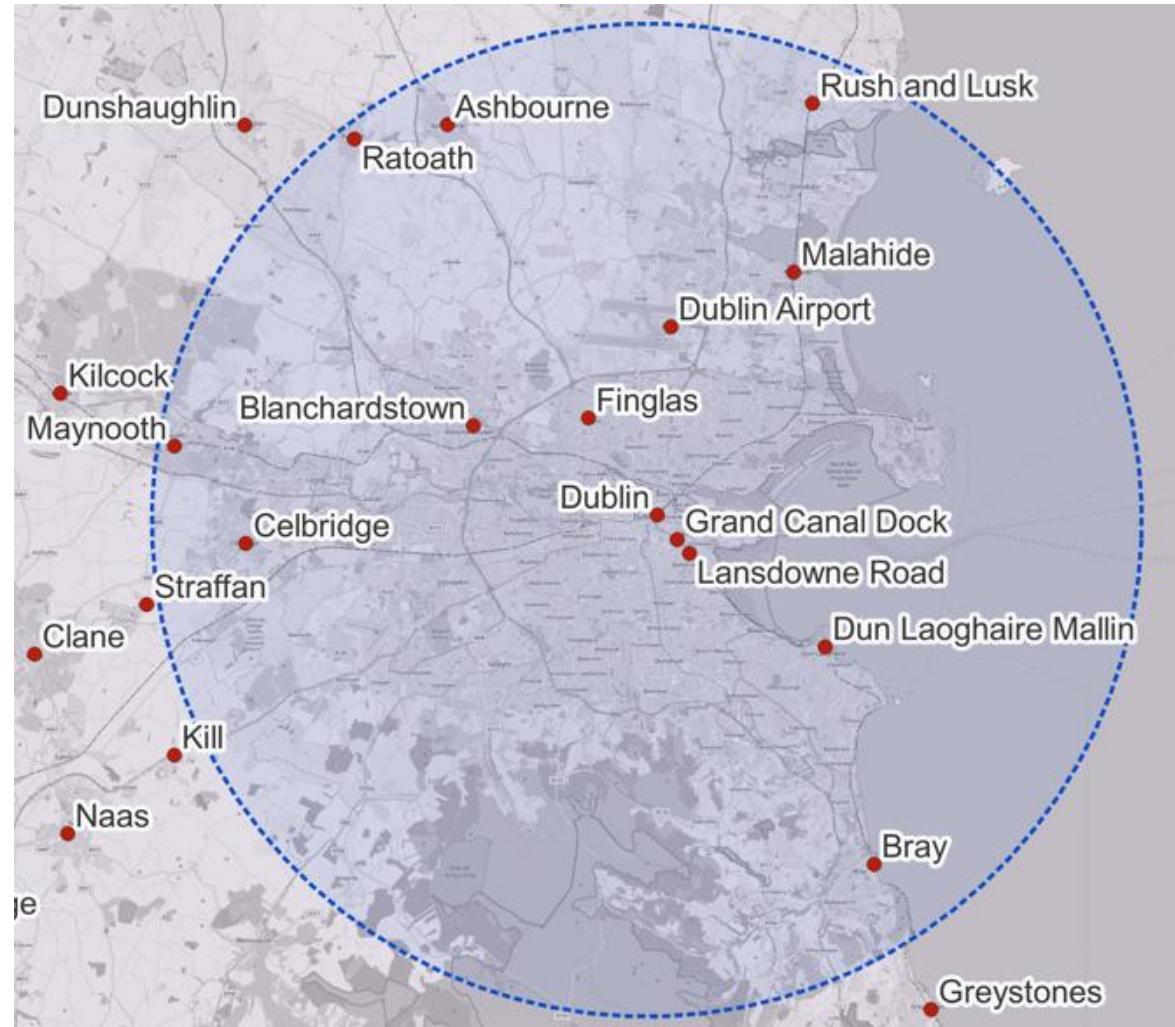
Fares Determination - Dublin City Zone

New Leap Card fare caps and tickets will be available, valid on all PSO public transport services in the **Dublin City Zone**.

- A lower daily fare Leap Card cap of €6 will apply
- A weekly Leap Card cap of €24 will apply
- A new €96 monthly Leap ticket and €960 annual ticket will also be available

The weekly cap of €24 is a saving of 25% for those living in the City Zone, compared to the current €32 cap

The new monthly and annual tickets a saving of 38% for those travelling within the City Zone, compared to the existing equivalent fare.



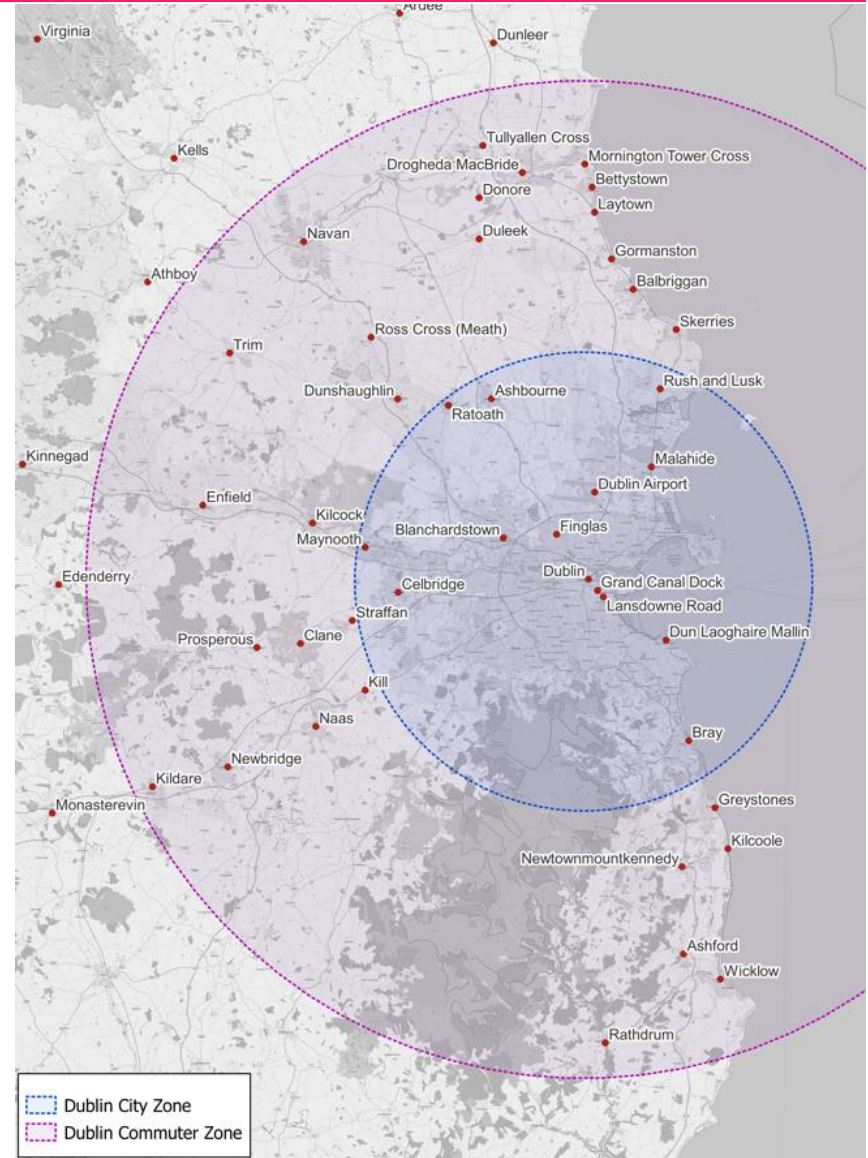
Fares Determination - Dublin Commuter Zone

The new **Dublin Commuter Zone** will be introduced in the area between the outer boundary of the City Zone and 50km from Dublin city centre

- Replaces the Irish Rail “Short-Hop Zone”
- Replaces Bus Éireann Eastern regional fare zones

A series of new multi-modal Leap zonal daily, weekly, monthly and annual tickets will be available for the Dublin Commuter Zone

These new tickets will also be valid for travel on all PSO services within the Dublin City Zone



Fares Determination - Dublin Commuter Zone

For travel from the 'Dublin Commuter Zone' into the 'Dublin City Zone' (or vice-versa) **the lower** of the following fares will apply:

1. The National Fare Strategy fare i.e. boarding charge plus an incremental fare based on the straight-line distance between the start and end stop of your journey; or
2. The flat (€2.40) 'Xpresso' Dublin City fare plus an incremental fare based on the straight-line distance between the start of your journey and the 'Dublin City Zone' boundary.

To the right is an example of how the fare is calculated for a trip between Newbridge and Dublin city centre.

In this case the lower fare is 2. above.
For shorter journeys, the fare in 1. above would apply.



Changes for Rail

- Withdrawal of existing paper based 1-day, 3-day and 7-day Short Hop Zone products
- Introduction of Leap e-Purse distance based fares for all rail stations within the new Dublin Commuter Zone.
- Discontinuation of existing point to point single, return, weekly, monthly and annual products
- Passengers will be able to avail of Leap e-Purse and new Leap zonal Products

Changes for Bus

- Removal of existing Bus Éireann Eastern fare zone tickets (including 10 Journey paper tickets)
- Creation of new Leap zonal daily, weekly, monthly and annual tickets for bus use in the Dublin Commuter Area.

Fares Determination - changes outside Dublin

Intercity, regional and Cork Commuter rail fares

- Minor increases to Economy 1 and Economy 2 Intercity fares to reduce the disparity with Express rail tickets
- All other rail fare levels retained at their current prices
- Changes are first step in rollout of National Fares Strategy on rail outside Dublin

Bus fares outside Dublin

- Creation of a flat town service fare of €1.50 to align with the “Short” Dublin City fare
- Retention of existing regional city service fares
- All other bus ticket products and fare levels retained at their current prices

Implementation dates

Phase 1: (By the end of Q2 2024)

- Dublin city & national fares adjustments
- Leap ePurse and cash fare adjustments and period ticket simplifications in Dublin
- Irish Rail Intercity Economy 1&2 & towns fares adjustments

Phase 2: (By the end of Q3 2024)

- Implementation of new Dublin City Zone
 - Introduction of multimodal capping in Dublin City Zone and removal of single mode capping
 - Fares structure revisions to create consistency across bus, Luas and Dublin DART/rail services in Dublin City Zone
- Implementation of Dublin Commuter Zone
 - Introduction of new simplified fares structure on bus & rail services in Commuter Zone, including new range of Leap period & TaxSaver products
 - Introduction of Leap ePurse at all Dublin Commuter Zone rail stations