

2023-2025

Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Punctuality Report



Punctuality Overview

Punctuality is a KPI (Key Performance Indicator) of the performance of Bus Éireann, as part of the terms of their Direct Award PSO contract with the NTA.

For the purpose of measuring punctuality, Bus Éireann routes are divided into two groups – Low Frequency Routes and High Frequency Routes. Further details for each group are provided below.

The following pages detail the Punctuality and Regularity Performance achieved by Bus Éireann for each relevant period.

Low Frequency Routes are defined as services which operates less than 5 times per hour on a weekday, outside the peak periods.

Low Frequency Punctuality:

The Punctuality of Low Frequency Routes is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Punctuality (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of Actual Departures on Time}}{\text{Number of Actual Departures}} \times 100$$

Bus Éireann must achieve the Punctuality Standards set out in the table below for Low Frequency Routes:

Period	2023/24 Punctuality Standard	2025 Punctuality Standard
P1, P2, P3, P4, P5 (Late Winter / Spring)	Route By Route Minimum Performance Standards.	Route By Route Minimum Performance Standards.
P6, P7, P8, P9 (Summer)		
P10, P11, P12, P13 (Autumn / Early Winter)		

For each full 1% of departures for a Region/Route below the Punctuality Standard in a Reporting Period, a Punctuality Deduction equivalent to 0.2% of the Maximum Period Payment for that Region/Route as outlined in Schedule 20 shall be made by the Authority.

Notes:

- The *Number of Actual Departures* is the total number of bus departures from individual bus stops, along all routes combined for all services during the relevant period.
- The *Number of Actual Departures on Time* is the total number of “on time” bus departures from individual bus stops, along all routes combined for all services during the relevant period - where “**on time**” is defined as a bus which departs from a bus stop not more than one minute early or not more than five minutes and fifty nine seconds late when compared to the scheduled departure time.
- There are also a number of commercial bus services operated by Bus Éireann. These routes are not part of the PSO contract with the NTA and are therefore not included in any KPI calculations.
- The data has not been adjusted for first and last stop time recording issues.** These can arise, for example, when a bus is recorded leaving the first stop early because other vehicles parked at first stop mean the bus needs to pull up after the first stop to allow passengers on board, or where bus is not recorded arriving on time at final stop because stop is occupied by another bus waiting to enter service. It is estimated that 5% of all recorded stopping times for journeys on the Bus Éireann PSO network are recorded at first or last stops, and therefore prone to this error, resulting in lower recorded punctuality than may actually be the case.
- Period 1 (2020) is the first Period where region specific minimum performance punctuality standards applied. A full region breakdown by MPS category is outlined on the following page. Route by Route minimum performance standards applied from P4 2021. A full breakdown of route by route low frequency punctuality standards is outlined on Page 3.**
- Covid-19 Note:** Applicable from 16th March 2020, the Punctuality Standard for on time services according to the approved schedule (-1 minute to +5:59 minutes of schedule) was reduced by 10% compared to the contractual standards (e.g. an original standard of 65% would reduce to 55%). The Punctuality Performance Payment and the Punctuality Incentive Payment were reduced to one half of amounts stated in the operating contract. The Covid-19 MPS reduction as outlined above ended in Period 6 2020.
- As with many industries, public transport operators are experiencing significant challenges in recruiting qualified staff following the economic and social constraints connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public transport industry has been particularly hard-hit as operators attempt to return to pre-pandemic levels of activity as well as delivering intended service improvements such as the BusConnects Network Redesign and Connecting Ireland programmes. These issues are further exacerbated when existing staff must also be absent at short notice while following HSE guidelines after contracting COVID-19 or developing other illnesses. These challenges have an impact on Lost Kilometre Rates on all routes and also on Excess Waiting Times on high frequency routes. The Authority and the operators have been working to try to ensure that such cancellations are minimised,

High Frequency Routes are defined as services which operate at a frequency of at least 5 buses per hour on a weekday, outside the peak periods. These routes are as follows:

- 213
- 206
- 304
- 208
- 205
- 409
- 303
- 220

High Frequency Regularity:

High Frequency Routes differ from Low Frequency Routes, as passengers on High Frequency Routes are less likely to base their journey on the bus schedule and are instead more likely to just turn up at the bus stop and wait for the next bus to arrive. These passengers are generally more concerned with the average amount of time they must wait at the stop for the next bus to arrive, as opposed to whether the bus is running to schedule.

On this basis, the NTA has introduced a means of measuring regularity of High Frequency Routes called Excess Wait Time (EWT). This metric provides a measure of the average time a passenger must wait for the next high frequency bus, in excess of the wait time which would be expected as per the schedule for that route – i.e. if you are a passenger who arrives at a stop for a high frequency bus route without checking the schedule, the EWT will calculate how much longer you have to wait for the next bus, in comparison to a baseline situation where all buses are calculated to the timetabled gap (headway) between services. Up until P9 2018, the punctuality methodology for low frequency routes was also applied to high frequency routes.

Bus Éireann EWT KPI deductions became live in Q3 2019.

Period 1 (2020) is the first Period where route by route specific minimum performance EWT standards apply. A full region breakdown by MPS category as outlined below.

For each 0.1 minute that EWT is greater than the EWT Standard for a Route, an EWT Deduction of 0.2% of the Maximum Period Payment for that Route as outlined in Schedule 20 shall apply.

High Frequency Regularity:

The Regularity of High Frequency Routes is calculated as follows:

$$\text{EWT (min)} = \text{Average Actual Waiting Time (min)} - \text{Average Planned Waiting Time}$$

Bus Éireann must achieve the Regularity Standards set out in the table below for High Frequency Routes.

P10 2024 onwards Route By Route EWT KPI		
Category	Route	MPS
A	304	1.9
B	208	1.6
	213	
C	409	1.3
	205	
D	206	1.1

P1 2025 onwards Route By Route EWT KPI		
Category	Route	MPS
A	304	1.9
B	208	1.6
	220	
	303	
C	409	1.3
	213	
	205	
D	206	1.1

- *Covid-19 Note:** Applicable From 16/03/20 a 50% adjustment will apply to EWT Standards in cases where more than 5% of scheduled kms are lost due to staff absence directly linked to Covid-19 in any Reporting Period.

Period 4 2022 onwards
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Route by Route Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) Breakdown



Low Frequency Routes are defined as services which operates less than 5 times per hour on a weekday, outside the peak periods.

Category A Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 64% (67% from P1 2023)
133, 343, 109X, 226, 109, 236, 245, 252, 101, 111, 115, 370, 343X, 101X, 109B, NX, 260, 350, 419, 70, 314, 111X, 323, 65, 100, 233, 237, 456, 458, 115C, 320, 425, 133X, 132, 239, 240, 241, 261, 280, 220, 215, 220X, 207, 360, 360A, 304A, 216, 223, 402, 301, 201, 209, S2, 223X, 226A, 225, 219, S1.
Category B Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 67% (69% from P1 2023)
103, 105,, 109A, 72, 73, 424, 440, 166, 103X, 434, 105X, 469, 454, 371, 323X,, 425A, 235, 460, 161, 182, 190, 480, 492, 475, 162, 321, 346, 465, 382, 348, 135, 168, 175, 333, 336, 345, 372, 373, 374, 375, 379, 385, 189, 380, 401, 405, 304X, A2, 303, D2, 203, 173, A1, 174, 226X
Category C Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 71% (73% from P1 2023)
355, 272, 329, 429, 248, 462, 362, 284, 461, 476, 479, 136, 243, 275, 111A, 421, 167, 187, 446, 332, 341, 313, 471, 442, 468, 464, 457, 366, 447, 443, 334, 134,, 279A, 422, 490, 271, 257, 451, 175A,, 470, 273, 489, 495, 349, 322, 324, 448, 486, 487, 160, 279, 182A, 107, 420, 270, 466, 328, 347, 450, 491, 417, 463, 365, 381, 483, 282, 494, 108, 445, 275A, 274, 383, 444, 377, 455, 258, 378, 163, 474, 259, 467, 278, 380, 404, 214, 221, 302, D1, 133B, 133L, 423, N2, D4, D5.
Category D Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 75% (77% from P1 2023)
207A, 305, 306, 215A, 407, 213, 209A, 174B, 110C, 110A, 110B, B1, 174A, N1, 225L, 202A, 212, 305A.

Period 9 2024 onwards
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Route by Route Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) Breakdown



Low Frequency Routes are defined as services which operates less than 5 times per hour on a weekday, outside the peak periods.

Category A Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 67%
101, 101X, 109, 109B, 109X, 111, 111X, 115, 115C, 132, 133, 133X, NX, 201, 207, 209, 215, 216, 219, 220, 220X, 223, 223X, 225, 301, 304A, 402, S1, S2, 360, 360A, 65, 70, 100, 226, 233, 236, 237, 239, 240, 261, 280, 314, 320, 323, 343, 343X, 350, 370, 419, 425, 456, 458, 241, 245, 252, 260, 316, 317, 317A, 330, 330X, 202, 350C, EK1, S3
Category B Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 69%
103, 103X, 105, 105X, 109A, 203, 303, 304X, 401, 405, A1, A2, D2, 173, 174, 72, 73, 135, 161, 162, 168, 166, 175, 182, 190, 235, 321, 323X, 333, 336, 345, 346, 348, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 379, 382, 385, 424, 434, 454, 460, 465, 469, 475, 480, 492, 425A, 189, 226X, 440
Category C Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 73%
107, 108, 111A, 214, 302, 313, 404, D1, N2, 134, 136, 160, 163, 167, 175A, 182A, 187, 243, 248, 257, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 278, 279, 282, 284, 322, 324, 328, 329, 332, 334, 341, 347, 349, 355, 362, 365, 366, 377, 378, 381, 383, 417, 420, 421, 422, 429, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 450, 451, 455, 457, 461, 462, 463, 464, 466, 467, 468, 470, 471, 474, 476, 479, 483, 487, 489, 490, 491, 494, 495, 245x, 275a, 279a, 423, 486, 270, 258, 259, 133b, 133l, 404, D4, D5, 380, 276
Category D Routes - Minimum Performance Standard = 77%
207A, 209A, 213, 215A, 305, 306, 307, 174A, 174B, B1, N1, 225L, 202A, 212, 305A, 170

Q1 & Q2 2025
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Punctuality Report



P1 Punctuality - January 01st 2025 → January 26th 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	65.8	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	1.54	*Route By Route

P4 Punctuality - March 24th 2025 → April 20th 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	64.1	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	1.71	*Route By Route

P2 Punctuality - January 27th 2025 → February 23rd 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	62.8	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.20	*Route By Route

P5 Punctuality - April 21st 2025 → May 18th 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	65.4	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	1.96	*Route By Route

P3 Punctuality - February 24th 2025 → March 23rd 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	63.2	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	1.96	*Route By Route

P6 Punctuality - May 19th 2025 - June 15th 2025

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	67.1	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.22	*Route By Route

Q3 & Q4 2024
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Punctuality Report



P7 Punctuality - June 17th 2024 - July 14th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	64.7	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.21	*Route By Route

P10 Punctuality - September 09th 2024 → October 06th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	57.5	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	4.50	*Route By Route

P8 Punctuality - July 15th 2024 - August 11th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	64.4	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.97	*Route By Route

P11 Punctuality - October 07th 2024 → November 03rd 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	58.1	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.57	*Route By Route

P9 Punctuality - August 12th 2024 - September 10th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	61.0	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.63	*Route By Route

P12 Punctuality - November 04th 2024 → December 01st 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	57.0	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.01	*Route By Route

P13 Punctuality - December 02nd 2024 → December 31st 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	58.4	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	4.96	*Route By Route

Q1 & Q2 2024
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Punctuality Report



P1 Punctuality - January 01st 2024 → January 28th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	65.1	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.39	*Route By Route

P4 Punctuality - March 25th 2024 → April 21st 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	63.1	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.43	*Route By Route

P2 Punctuality - January 29th 2024 → February 25th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	61.2	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.95	*Route By Route

P5 Punctuality - April 22nd 2024 → May 19th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	60.1	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.82	*Route By Route

P3 Punctuality - February 26th 2024 → March 24th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	61.4	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.07	*Route By Route

P6 Punctuality - May 20th 2024 - June 16th 2024

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	62.4	*Route By Route
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	4.11	*Route By Route

Q3 & Q4 2023
Bus Éireann Direct Award Contract
Punctuality Report



P7 Punctuality - June 19th 2023 → July 16th 2023

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	65.8	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.21	*Route By Route

P10 Punctuality - September 11th 2023 → October 8th 2023

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	56.3	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.57	*Route By Route

P8 Punctuality - July 17th 2023 → August 13th 2023

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	66.0	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.42	*Route By Route

P11 Punctuality - October 9th 2023 → November 5th 2023

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	55.8	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	4.25	*Route By Route

P9 Punctuality - August 14th 2023 → September 10th 2023

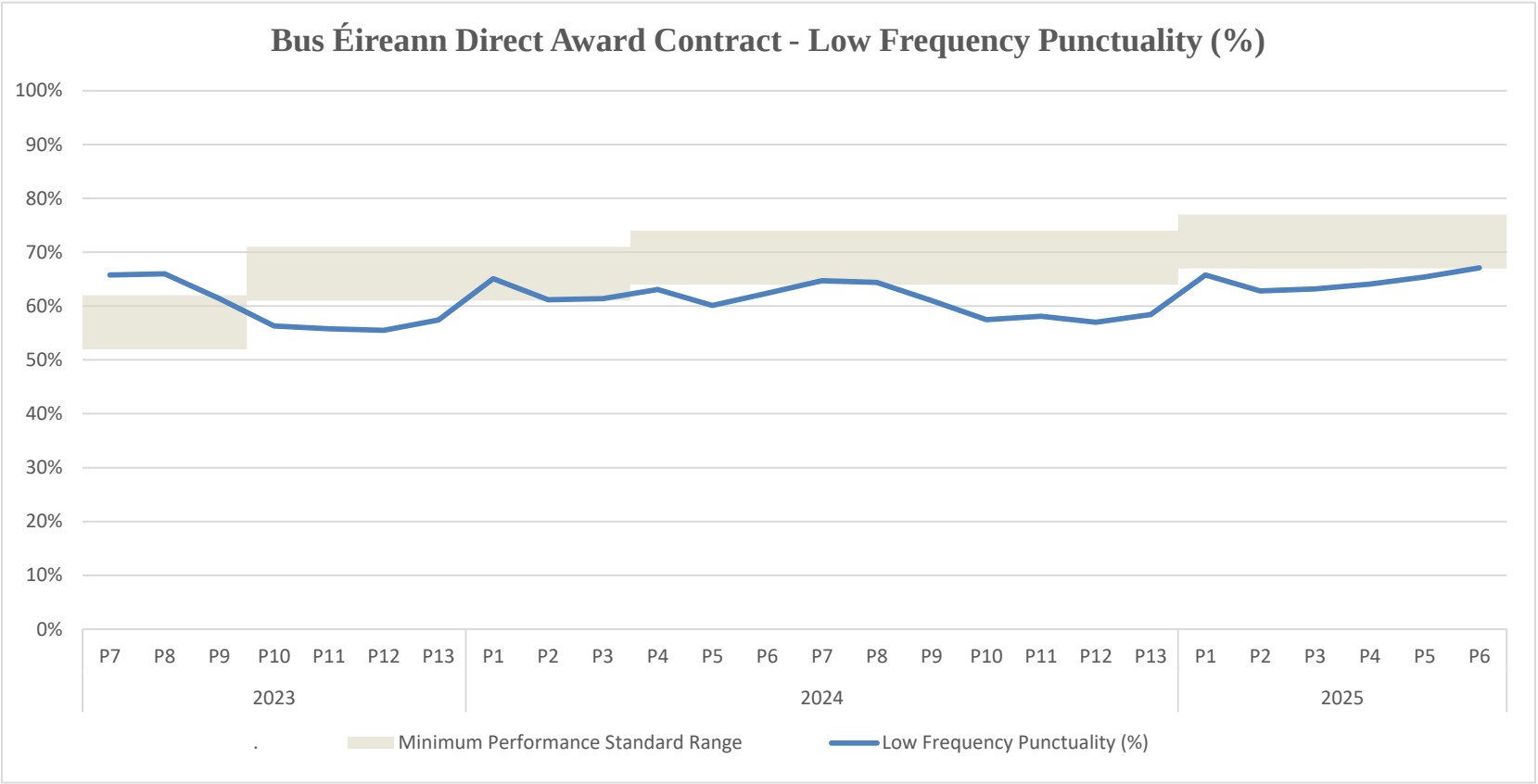
	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	61.4	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	2.33	*Route By Route

P12 Punctuality - November 6th 2023 → December 3rd 2023

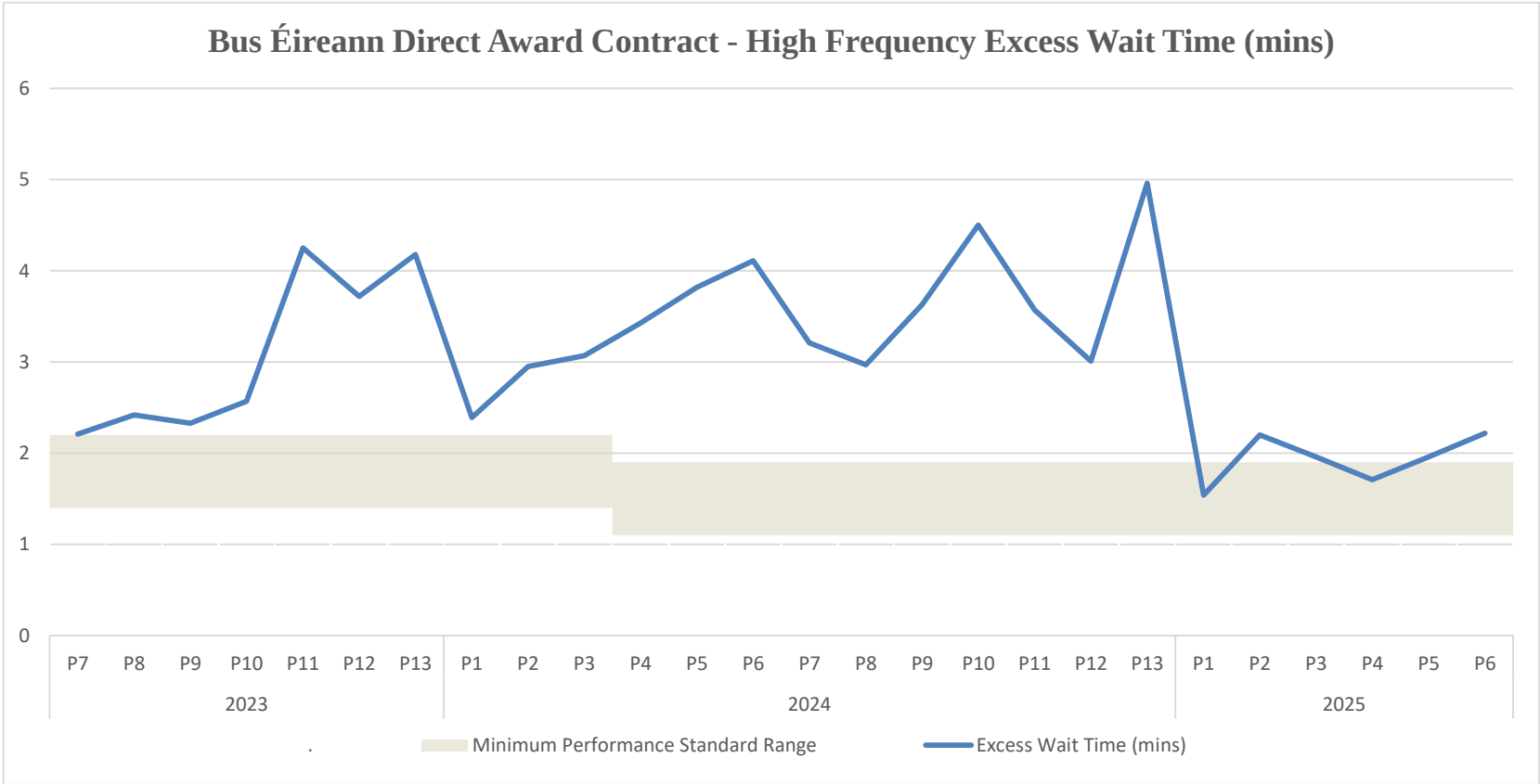
	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	55.5	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	3.72	*Route By Route

P13 Punctuality - December 4th 2023 → December 31st 2023

	Punctuality (%)	Minimum Performance Standard (%)
Low Frequency - Total	57.4	*Region Specific
	EWT (mins)	Minimum Performance Standard (mins)
High Frequency - Total	4.18	*Route By Route



Higher punctuality (%) values are better as they show the percentage of departures from stops which are punctual



Lower EWT values are better as they reflect less excess waiting time.