

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2024**

- Emails dated 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 from the Office of the Minister for Transport in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that Limerick City and County Council writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and any other relevant state authority, to seek funding support to provide free buses for all passengers on key routes into Limerick City at weekends, so as to increase footfall and business activity in the City Centre.

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** Ministers Office <Minister-Transport@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 9 October 2024 15:39  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-04642-2024

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Our Ref: TTAS-MO-04642-2024

Dear Mr. Leahy,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., I wish to thank you for your email regarding support for free buses (dated 16th September). A further reply will issue to you as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

Amanda Corley

Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

LÃ¡nna Liosain, Baile Ã tha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

[www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** Ministers Office <Minister-Transport@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 10 October 2024 10:51  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-04642-2024

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Our Ref: TTAS-MO-04642-2024

Dear Mr. Leahy,,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, thank you for your letter of 17th September, 2024 seeking funding for free travel.

I would like to explain that the Department of Transport is responsible for the development of public transport policy and its funding. However, the Department does not have a role in the provision of subsidised bus and rail services. That is the responsibility of the National Transport Authority (NTA) in conjunction with public transport operators such as Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, Go-Ahead Ireland and Luas.

The NTA has entered into contracts with the individual operators. Those contracts set out the roles and responsibilities of both parties. Broadly speaking:-

- the NTA is responsible for determining the organisation of bus and rail services e.g. the routes and timetables to be operated; the fares to be charged; shared systems such as Leap Card, real-time passenger information (RTPI) and the national journey planner (NJP);
- the individual operators are responsible for the management and operation of services on a day-to-day basis

As your correspondence would appear to fall into the former category, the National Transport Authority are the appropriate body to contact, and I note you have already been in contact with the company.

I hope the above is of assistance to you.

With best wishes,

Amanda Corley

Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

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