

Ms Susan Sinclair
Administrative Officer
Land Use Planning and Transportation Department
South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght
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21st December 2023

Re: Item 81029 November 2023 Lucan, Palmerstown and North Clondalkin ACM

Dear Ms Sinclair,

Thank you for your letter of 15th December to the Customer Care Team which has been passed to me for direct response.

The Iarnród Éireann operational fleet is fully deployed on scheduled services at present, in line with prevailing demand. The current capacity is primarily based on demand levels pre-COVID, when rapid growth in demand resulted in the utilisation of 100% of our operational fleet at peak times, and we are maximising use of our rolling stock to meet demand.

For your information, Iarnród Éireann is currently investing in two further fleet orders, namely:

- 41 Intercity railcar carriages, which have now arrived and dynamic testing has begun – these will begin entering service in Spring 2024, as they are intermediate carriages, they will facilitate the lengthening of existing train sets.
- Two initial orders of 185 electric and battery-electric carriages for the DART+ Fleet has been placed in December 2021 (95 carriages) and December 2022 (90 carriages), with up to 750 carriages in total to be ordered over the coming decade. The first 95 carriages will arrive from mid-2024, entering service from 2025.

Decisions on deployment of the 41 ICRs will be based on current and projected demand and infrastructure capacity, and subject to approval of the National Transport Authority.

Subsequent fleet orders for DART+ will be deployed in line with infrastructure development under the DART+ Programme.

As well as increasing Dublin area capacity, it will also see Commuter and Intercity carriages currently in use on Commuter services allocated to other routes, to increase capacity and frequency of services. Ultimately, the overall order will see the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) total rail fleet, and up to 80% of all heavy rail journeys in Ireland, set for a potentially emissions-free future, as well as generating reductions in noise, and cost savings in train operations.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Meade

Chief Executive