

Reply to February ACM item 90119

Good Afternoon,

I refer to your recent correspondence dated 18th February 2026.

Iarnród Éireann is currently seeing its highest ever passenger numbers and we currently operate all available trains on a daily basis, outside of required maintenance cycles to ensure fleet reliability and any repair works which may be taking place.

In 2024, we added 41 new Intercity railcar carriages to the fleet and these have helped to address some of this increased demand, as well as facilitating extra services on a number of routes.

We are in the process of ordering more carriages, with 185 carriages already ordered for the Greater Dublin Area. These will begin entering service from Q2 2027 onwards, with 50 carriages expected to enter service in 2027 and the remainder in 2028, and we do hope to place subsequent further orders of this fleet.

As well as benefiting Greater Dublin Area services, these trains will also allow us to allocate Intercity and Commuter trains currently operating in the Greater Dublin Area for use on other routes around the network. Their deployment will be subject to review with and the approval of the National Transport Authority, subject to demand and infrastructure capacity at the time.

We appreciate that you do wish to see additional capacity as soon as possible, but as detailed above, unfortunately we will not be in a position to provide significant additional capacity until these new trains begin entering service. We thank you for your patience and understanding in the meantime, and look forward to adding more capacity and frequency to our services, both through investment in new trains, and through our investment in our network to increase the number of trains we are in a position to operate.

Kind regards,
Michael