



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Free LUAS Travel on New Line – Mary Coughlan Minister for Social and Family Affairs

Over 600,000 free travel passholders will be entitled to use LUAS services free of charge at all times, without restriction, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Coughlan TD, announced today.

“Passholders will be entitled to travel on the LUAS without any time restriction under the terms of a deal brokered between LUAS and my Department,” said Minister Coughlan.

“I am delighted that even more passholders will now be able to use the LUAS with the opening of the new LUAS line from Connolly Station to Tallaght,” added Minister Coughlan.

Free Travel is one of a package of household schemes provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The free travel scheme is funded by the taxpayer and will cost approximately €52m in 2004. This covers CIE services and about 80 private operator services around the country, and now LUAS.

In addition to the passholder themselves, accompanying spouses are also entitled to travel free where clients have the appropriate pass. Companions accompanying passholders can travel free where clients have special ‘companion’ passes.

Passholders do not need to get a ticket for LUAS but must produce their pass on the tram if requested to do so by a LUAS Customer Service Officer or Inspector. Inspectors are entitled to check to make sure that the pass is valid and may seek supporting documentation and/or check with the Department to make sure the pass is being used by the correct person.

ENDS September 28th 2004

NB: SEE ATTACHED FACTSHEET

NOTE FOR INFORMATION:

To qualify for Free Travel you must be living permanently in the State and be:

Aged 66 or over

Or

Under age 66 and satisfy *any* one of the conditions listed below:

- a. you are getting one of the following payments:
 - Invalidity Pension
 - Blind Pension
 - Disability Allowance
 - Unemployability Supplement or Workmen's Compensation with Disablement Pension, for at least 12 months



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Carer's Allowance (entitled to single status pass only if under age 66 years)
(*All from the Department of Social and Family Affairs*)

a Social Security Invalidity Pension/Benefit, or an equivalent payment, for at least 12 months, from a country covered by EC Regulations, or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

or

- b. are a specified carer for people getting Constant Attendance Allowance or Prescribed Relatives Allowance from this Department (entitled to single status pass only if under age 66 years)

or

- c. you live in Health Board approved residential care and you were previously getting either Disability Allowance (from this Department) or Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance (from a Health Board)

or

- d. you are a widow or widower aged 60 to 65 inclusive and your late spouse held a Free Travel Pass and prior to his/her death, you lived together on a permanent basis. In this case, you must be getting one of the following payments:

Retirement Pension (payable at age 65)

Widow's or Widower's (Contributory) Pension

Widow's or Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension

One-Parent Family Payment

Widow's or Widower's Pension under the Occupational Injuries Benefits

Scheme

(*All from the Department of Social and Family Affairs*)

An equivalent Social Security Pension/Benefit from a country covered by EC Regulations, or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

an ORDINARY Garda Widow's Pension from the Department of Justice

Countries covered by EC Regulations:

Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France
Germany	Greece	Iceland	Ireland	Italy
Liechtenstein	Luxembourg	Norway	PortugalSpain	Sweden
the Netherlands	the United Kingdom (<i>excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man</i> *).			

* A Convention on Social Security is currently being discussed with the United Kingdom to include the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Countries with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement:

Australia	Québec	Austria	Switzerland	Canada
the United States of America		New Zealand		