

National Bus & Rail Union



Tom Darby House
54 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.
Telephone: 01 873 0411
Fax: 01 873 0137
E-mail: nbru@eircom.net
Web: www.nbru.ie
Twitter@nbru_dublin

Branches: Cork, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, Ballina, Donegal, Cavan, Waterford, Tralee, Drogheda, Dundalk, Kilkenny, Rosslare

Ms Anne Graham
CEO
National Transport Authority
Harcourt Lane
Dun Scéine
Dublin 2

Mr Ray Coyne
CEO
Dublin Bus
59 Upper O'Connell Street
Dublin 1

30th October 2020

Re: 25% Capacity Restrictions/HSE Staff

Dear Madam/Sir,

I refer to the above and the ongoing concern in relation to Frontline HSE staff having difficulties with accessing buses on certain routes serving hospitals and healthcare facilities.

These routes (see attached sample) all serve hospitals and are regularly 'full' within two to three stops of the departing terminus. Our members are reporting on the fact that these buses are passing commuters practically every morning, particularly since the capacity restrictions were lowered to 25%.

We are extremely conscious that quite an amount of these commuters are HSE workers that are trying to get to their place (Hospital) of employment in order to fulfil that most vital of roles, being a Frontline Health worker in the middle of a Pandemic.

It is of course almost impossible to discern who is, or who is not a HSE worker, in any event, if one was able to establish the designation of a commuter, it would be extremely difficult to be selective in who could, or could not access a particular Bus.

The NBRU, having spoken with our representatives, have formed the view that it might be appropriate to **look at designating or creating 'special' Buses on these routes, at certain pinch point (morning peak) times for HSE/Hospital staff only.** We do understand that fleet usage is at a premium, we are also cognisant that other commuters and passengers need to also access their place of employment, though we would respectfully suggest that Frontline HSE staff should have priority in being able to access buses.

The NBRU did submit to the Covid-19 Dail Committee (twice) and wrote to the then Taoiseach and other Party leaders in May this year, proposing that schools, Colleges, Retail and Workplaces in general should have staggered opening and closing times. We did so in anticipation of the manifestation of the type of problems we are now witnessing regarding Capacity restrictions. Interestingly, the concept (staggering times) was met with positivity by

both the current and previous Taoiseach. With the reopening of schools from Monday 2nd November, capacity issues will escalate dramatically.

The NBRU, along with representative colleagues are prepared to work with both the NTA and Dublin Bus in establishing which routes are more prone to leaving HSE staff behind to wait for next or subsequent bus.

Incidentally, our representatives are also advising that quite an amount of buses are way beyond 25% Capacity, the reality being of course, that bus drivers are Public Servants, the ethos of providing a service come what may, is paramount to them, trying to juggle adherence to capacity constraints (not a drivers role to police) and the need of those HSE Frontline workers accessing their Hospitals, is placing drivers in an invidious position.

I trust that you will give consideration to our proposal (above) and understand that the proximity to the start of another commuting week (Monday 2nd Nov) demands that expediency is required on this particular issue.

Yours sincerely



Dermot O'Leary
General Secretary

Capacity constraints on routes serving hospitals

Route	Detail	Hospital
13	Full before Clondalkin Village inbound to city centre cannot serve James's Hospital	St James Hospital
40	Full before Neilstown Village inbound to city centre cannot serve James's Hospital	St James Hospital
151	Full before Dame Street, city centre heading outbound to Lucan	Crumlin Children's Hospital Coombe Women's Hospital
27	Jobstown to City centre the bus is full before Tallaght Hospital heading inbound to the city. Many nurses complaining about being left behind	Crumlin Children's Hospital Coombe Women's Hospital Tallaght Hospital
65	Full leaving Blessington cannot serve Tallaght hospital	Tallaght Hospital
77a	Citywest to city centre, full before Tallaght hospital	Tallaght Hospital Crumlin Children's Hospital Coombe Women's Hospital
150	Full inbound to city centre passing Crumlin Children's Hospital	Crumlin Children's Hospital
38	2 extra universal buses added but buses still full inbound at, or before Blanchardstown Main Street	Connolly Hospital
16	Leaving people behind from Santry to Town and Ballinteer to Santry so intending passengers attending the Mater Hospital, Highfield Hospital left behind	Mater Hospital Highfield Hospital