



Department for

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA

Craig Mealey
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Our reference: COR-1858-2024
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Dear Mr Mealey,

REDUCING THE COST OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Thank you for your correspondence to Minister O'Dowd on behalf of Belfast City Council which was received on 14th November 2024 and requested that consideration be given to reducing the cost of public transport fares over the Christmas period, as an incentive to increase the use of public transport.

In general terms, a reduction in the cost of public transport fares is a matter for Translink who are responsible for setting any commercial discounts and must do so in consideration of their budget allocation. Translink currently offer some discounts and offers that customers can avail of which are available at <https://www.translink.co.uk/usingtranslink/specialoffers>

Notwithstanding the above, the Strategic Partnership Board have looked at options around the Park and Ride facilities to encourage use and reduce congestion but have found all options to be cost prohibitive.

More generally, we are appealing to motorists to consider other options they can take to avoid congestion such as public transport, park and ride, active travel or, if possible, planning their journey to use an alternative route or to avoid peak times.

To reinforce this messaging, a bespoke public advertising campaign (on radio and outdoor platforms) has been commissioned to promote Park & Ride to Belfast City Centre in the run-up to Christmas. This went live on December 2nd.

Moving forward, Minister O'Dowd has indicated that he is keen to explore how others, including Belfast City Council and local businesses, might also support the Department and Translink to improve the offering for consumers at Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

EMMA STOCKMAN
Private Secretary to the Minister