

EIR Request (received 02 January 2019) - Reference: DFI/2019-0004

Copies of statistical data held by the Department in relation to Belfast Rapid Transit's Glider services, including: 1) all statistics regarding usage; and 2) any statistics relating to the underlying objective of moving commuters from private cars to Glider.

Response (issued 15 January 2019)

I refer to your email of 02 January concerning your request above.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

The Environmental Information Regulations established general public rights of access to environmental information held by public authorities, similar to the general rights established under FOI, information provided in response to a request is considered to have been placed in the public domain. There is no provision for privileged access to information, it may either be released to the World at large, or it must be withheld. Any information provided in response to an information request (either FOI or EIR) is considered to have been placed in the public domain.

In response to your request, the information the Department holds is as follows:

The percentage increase and split of journeys across services and geographical locations is approximately as follows:

Glider East - 31%

Glider West - 30%

Glider Titanic Quarter (TQ) - 2%

Residual Metro services (East, West and TQ) - 32%

Feeder services (East and West) - 4%

Urby Dundonald P&R - 1%

For counting purposes, journeys are apportioned based on their origin and destination. For example, if a passenger boards a Feeder service at Ballybeen and purchases a ticket for the city centre, 0.5 of a journey will be allocated to the Feeder journey count and 0.5 of a journey will be allocated to Glider.

I hope this is helpful.

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