



FOI Request Fare Evasion, Operators & Services

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Request Stage	Request
Date Received	28/04/2020
Date Responded	15/05/2020
Disclosure	Full
Exemptions / Exceptions	N/A
Supporting Documents	N/A

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Request

We are interested to know:

- What is the current fare evasion rate across your public transport system?
- What are the fare evasion rates for each transport mode?
- What methods were used to derive the fare evasion rate?
- Are there any strategies in place to reduce this rate? If so, what is the target rate?
- How many operators exist across each transport mode?
- Are there any contractual restrictions and monitoring for these operators?
- Are there any operator incentives/penalties to reduce the fare evasion rate?

Can I also kindly ask if you could provide the following figures?

- Annual ridership across modes
- Number of underground metro lines:
- Number of Rail stations:
- Number of Rail Lines:
- Number of Tram Lines:
- Number of Tram Stations:
- Number of Bus Routes:
- Number of Bus Stops:
- Bus and Tram Fleet Size:

Response

Thank you for your recent request made under the Freedom of Information Act. Please find Merseytravel's response below.

In terms of rail travel, Merseytravel is responsible for overseeing the Merseyrail network, which is operated by Merseyrail Electric Ltd. Enquiries about the wider rail network should be directed to Network Rail at [this link](#).

- What is the current fare evasion rate across your public transport system?

This information is not held.

- What are the fare evasion rates for each transport mode?

Fare evasion rates for bus travel are not held by Merseytravel.

For Merseyrail the last figures (taken between 23rd September and 6th October 2019) show 3.34% of customers travelled without a ticket.

- What methods were used to derive the fare evasion rate?

Schedules are worked up in conjunction with Merseyrail and ensure an even coverage of all routes during the survey period. The schedules were checked against any short-term planning or engineering works to ensure they were correct for the survey period. The focus for the scheduling was to hit each route as many times as possible within the time frame given, but to at least cover one weekday and a weekend.

Tracsis surveyors worked in pairs at all times, and covered carriages together, each carriage as a separate entity. Shifts were usually around 8 hours but never any more than 12 to ensure surveyor safety and fatigue was mitigated. Surveyors were asked to approach the guard for each service prior to boarding to ensure they were aware of the surveys. Guards were asked if any ticket checks had taken place and all efforts were made to survey carriages that had not had ticket checks

- Are there any strategies in place to reduce this rate? If so, what is the target rate?

No

- How many operators exist across each transport mode?

28 Bus Operators
Merseyrail

- Are there any contractual restrictions and monitoring for these operators?

The Merseyrail Network is operated in line with the Concession Agreement between Merseytravel and Merseyrail Electric Ltd. Bus operators who provide subsidised routes on behalf of Merseytravel do so under contract.

- Are there any operator incentives/penalties to reduce the fare evasion rate?

No

- Annual ridership across modes:

Please see the table below showing the most recent passenger numbers held. As data is not held for all years, a wide timeframe has been provided.

There was a break in the way bus data was collected and calculated during 2015, with new methodology trialled from October of that year, meaning that an annual figure is not held. This new was implemented fully for 2016/17.

Year	Merseyrail	Bus
2009/10	39.6m	142.9m
2010/11	39.8m	141.6m
2011/12	41.2m	137.1m
2012/13	39.0m	136.2m
2013/14	41.1m	136.5m

2014/15	41.9m	136.7m
2015/16	43.3m	No Data
2016/17	44.2m	147.4m
2017/18	No Data	133.8m
2018/19	No Data	125.9m

- Number of underground metro lines

The Merseyrail network has three lines in total (Wirral, Northern, City)

- Number of Rail stations

The Merseyrail network has 68 stations.

- Number of Rail Lines

This question should be directed to Network Rail.

- Number of Tram Lines

N/A

- Number of Tram Stations

N/A

- Number of Bus Routes

226

- Number of Bus Stops

6,664

- Bus and Tram Fleet Size

N/A. Buses are owned and run by bus operators, not by Merseytravel.

I trust that this information is of interest to you.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, which should be addressed to:

Mrs Julie Watling
 Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement Manager
 Merseytravel
 PO Box 1976
 Liverpool
 L69 3HN
julie.watling@merseytravel.gov.uk

If you are not content with the result of your internal review, you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner, whose address is

The Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,

Wilmslow,

Cheshire SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk