

23rd July, 2026.

Re: Public Transport Linking Swords and Blanchardstown, AI107225

Dear Ms O hAodha,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2026 in relation to the motion considered by the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords Area Committee regarding public transport links between Swords and Blanchardstown.

TU Dublin welcomes the Committee's interest in improving public transport connectivity between Swords, the wider Fingal area and Blanchardstown. We are supportive of the principle of a more direct public transport link between these areas, particularly given the role of TU Dublin's Blanchardstown Campus as a place of learning, employment, research and community engagement.

At present, there does not appear to be a direct, single-seat public transport connection between Swords and TU Dublin's Blanchardstown Campus. Current journey options generally require passengers to travel from the Swords corridor, for example using Route 41 or related services, and then interchange onto the N4 orbital route serving Blanchardstown. This is then followed by a further walk or local connection to the campus.

The N4 is a welcome and important orbital service. Transport for Ireland's BusConnects material confirms that the N4 connects Blanchardstown Shopping Centre with the Point Village via Collins Avenue, and that orbital routes are intended to provide connections between suburbs without requiring travel into Dublin city centre. The same material also confirms that the N4 operates at a high frequency at most times on weekdays and Saturdays, with an overnight service also provided.

However, the current Swords to Blanchardstown journey remains indirect. Indicative journey-planner checks show that public transport journeys from Swords to TU Dublin Blanchardstown can take approximately 1 hour 30 minutes or more, and generally involve at least one interchange. This compares with a much shorter car journey in many cases. While such journey times vary by time of day, service reliability and interchange timing, they demonstrate the practical challenge for students, staff and visitors making cross-suburban journeys to the campus.

TU Dublin's own travel survey data supports the need for continued improvement in public and sustainable transport access to the Blanchardstown Campus. The 2024 TU Dublin TFI NTA Smarter Travel Survey found that 68% of Blanchardstown students travel by public transport, demonstrating the importance of reliable services for student access. However, only 15% of Blanchardstown staff travel by public transport, with 77% travelling by private vehicle. The same report shows that Blanchardstown has lower overall sustainable travel uptake than the city-centre campuses, and notes that several factors may contribute to this, including limited access to reliable public transport.

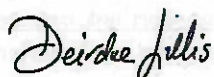
This is not simply a campus issue. A more direct Swords to Blanchardstown public transport link would support students, staff, visitors, local communities, employers and services across a significant part of Fingal and west Dublin. It would also support wider public policy objectives around sustainable travel, reduced car dependency, access to education and employment, and improved orbital movement across Dublin without requiring passengers to travel through the city centre.

While the planning and delivery of public transport services is a matter for the National Transport Authority and relevant transport operators, TU Dublin would welcome the matter being raised with the NTA and the Minister for Transport. In particular, we would support a specific assessment of the Swords, Dublin Airport, Blanchardstown and TU Dublin Blanchardstown corridor, including whether a direct orbital service, or improved interchange arrangements with the N4, could materially improve access to education, employment and services in this part of the Dublin region.

TU Dublin would be happy to engage further with Fingal County Council, the NTA, the Department of Transport and other relevant stakeholders. We can provide campus travel data, local access information and stakeholder input to support any further assessment of public transport improvements serving the Blanchardstown Campus.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention. TU Dublin supports the objective of improved direct and sustainable public transport connectivity between Swords and Blanchardstown and would welcome being included in any further engagement on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Deirdre Lillis,
Uachtarán, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath
President, Technological University Dublin