

# METROLINK

Integrated Transport. Integrated Life.



## Property Owners' Protection Scheme

October 2022



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the Property Owners' Protection Scheme? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>What happens if I notice a change to my property during or after construction? .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>How do I sign up to the MetroLink Property Owners' Protection Scheme? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Next steps .....</b>	<b>9</b>



## 1 Introduction

MetroLink is the proposed high-capacity, high-frequency, automated rail line running from Swords to Charlemont, linking Dublin Airport, Irish Rail, DART, Dublin Bus and Luas services, creating fully integrated public transport in the Greater Dublin Area.

As well as linking major transport hubs, MetroLink will connect key destinations including Ballymun, the Mater Hospital, the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin City University and Trinity College Dublin.

Much of the 18.8 kilometre route will run underground, an exciting innovation for Irish public transport. MetroLink will carry up to 53 million passengers annually, cutting journey times from Swords to the city centre to 25 minutes. It will change the way we travel – and how we live.

Safety is being prioritised every step of the way towards the delivery of MetroLink. Tried and tested methods and best international standards are being applied throughout. Any vibrations resulting from the works will be maintained within the set levels set by appropriate international standards and ground movements will be monitored and controlled. The contractor will also carry out regular, comprehensive monitoring of surface levels and vibrations throughout the period of the works.

Nevertheless, in order to allay any concerns property owners may have Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has put in place the Property Owners' Protection Scheme (POPS).



Image: MetroLink Route Map

## 2 What is the Property Owners' Protection Scheme?

MetroLink Property Owners' Protection Scheme is a voluntary scheme that allows you to register your residential property with TII if it is within thirty metres of the edge of the MetroLink Tunnel Alignment (including properties along the R132 where Cut & Cover is proposed) or fifty metres of station structures.

TII has established a panel of three independent firms of building surveyors. When you register for the POPS you will choose the firm of building surveyors you wish to survey your property. This firm will carry out an initial condition survey of your residential property before construction begins. After they complete this initial condition survey they will issue an initial survey report to you and TII.

After construction, a final condition survey will be carried out on your residential property by the firm of building surveyors you chose at the start of the scheme. After they complete this final condition survey they will issue this second survey report to you and TII.

This Scheme will remain in place for twelve months after the opening of MetroLink.



*Image: Artist's Impression of Tara Station at night*

### 3 What happens if I notice a change to my property during or after construction?

If you notice any change to your property during construction you should notify TII without delay. The earlier an issue is identified the easier it will be to determine the cause and resolve the situation. Any condition survey prompted by this notification will be carried out by the firm of building surveyors you initially chose and an interim survey report will be issued to you and TII.

If this interim survey or the final condition survey carried out by the appointed building surveyor recommends repairs to your property to rectify damage caused by MetroLink works, and those repairs cost upto €45,000, we will implement that recommendation promptly with your agreement. These repairs will be carried out by a minor works contractor at a mutually convenient time.

If you do not agree with this recommendation you are free to pursue the matter through normal legal procedures. Your participation in the Scheme does not in any way impede your standard legal rights.

In the unlikely event that damage is noted after the twelve month period, the property owner will still have the right to claim compensation, just not through the Property Owners' Protection Scheme.



*Image: Artist's Impression of Swords Central Station plaza*



## 4 How do I sign up to the MetroLink Property Owners' Protection Scheme?

Transport Infrastructure Ireland will be writing to eligible property owners regarding POPS registration information shortly.

To register with the MetroLink Property Owners' Protection Scheme you will be asked to complete a registration form and return it to us by freepost. Alternatively you will be able to register online by sending a copy of the completed registration form to [pops@metrolink.ie](mailto:pops@metrolink.ie). On receipt of your completed registration form, your application will be acknowledged.

Closer to the start of MetroLink construction in your area, you will be contacted with the details of the panel of three independent firms of building surveyors.

You will be invited to select your preferred firm of building surveyors and they will contact you directly to make arrangements for the initial condition survey to be carried out before construction starts.

If you no longer wish to be included in the POPS scheme after registering with us, you can contact us at [pops@metrolink.ie](mailto:pops@metrolink.ie) and advise you no longer wish to be included in the scheme.

## 5 Frequently Asked Questions

### 5.1 Is POPS free?

Yes. You will be able to register your residential property with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) if your property is within thirty metres of the edge of the MetroLink alignment or fifty metres of station structures and thereby avail of the scheme.

### 5.2 Who decides who is eligible for the scheme and how?

Properties within thirty metres of the edge of the MetroLink alignment or fifty metres of a station are eligible for this scheme. If you are outside these boundaries, you are not eligible. The residences are selected by TII based on detailed drawings of the proposed MetroLink works and the local area. If you believe that your property is within the relevant boundaries of the works, and it has not been included please contact us on freephone 1800 333 777 or [info@metrolink.ie](mailto:info@metrolink.ie).



### **5.3 What is a condition survey?**

The condition survey will be a photographic and written record of the condition of the property. It will identify general information, outline and comment upon the condition of and clearly highlight any particularly sensitive internal and external features of each property and any existing cracking or other damage.

### **5.4 How long does a condition survey take?**

The surveys will vary in length depending on the size and nature of the property. However, it is not anticipated that the surveys will take more than an hour or two to complete.

### **5.5 When will the surveys be carried out?**

The surveys will be carried out as close as practically possible to the commencement of construction in the vicinity of the property in question. It is important to note that construction cannot commence until an Enforceable Railway Order is granted by An Bord Pleanála.

### **5.6 Can I choose another surveyor not on TII's list?**

No. The panel of surveyors is set up by TII following a formal tender process. The panel will be obliged to act impartially. Should you wish to use a surveyor who is not on the panel, this would have to be at your own expense.

### **5.7 Are commercial properties allowed to join the scheme?**

No, the scheme is restricted to residential properties. However, if there is a commercial entity that is part of the property this will also be surveyed as part of the scheme. For instance, a property that has residency upstairs and a retail unit at ground level.

### **5.8 What happens if I sign up to the scheme but do not select from the panel of building surveyors?**

If you do not select from the panel of building surveyors, TII will select one for you on a strict rotational basis before the start of construction works to ensure that appropriate records are established.





**5.9 What will happen if I notice change to my property during or after construction?**

If you notice any change to your property during construction you should notify TII without delay. The earlier an issue is identified the easier it will be to determine the cause and resolve the situation. Any condition survey prompted by this notification will be carried out by the building surveyor company you initially chose, and an interim survey report will be issued to you and TII.

**5.10 What is the ceiling for recommended repairs under the scheme?**

The Property Owners Protection Scheme is in addition to the existing legal rights of property owners and is in place to provide a simple and prompt way of rectifying any damage caused under the project up to the ceiling of €45,000.

**5.11 If the interim survey identified damage to my property what will happen?**

If the interim survey or the final condition survey carried out by the appointed building surveyor recommends repairs to your property to rectify damage caused by the MetroLink works and costs up to €45,000, TII will implement that recommendation promptly with your agreement.

**5.12 If repairs are required, who carries out the repairs?**

Minor works Contractors appointed by TII will carry out any repairs identified as promptly as possible at a mutually convenient time.

**5.13 How long does the scheme remain open after MetroLink is operational?**

The Scheme will remain in place for twelve months after the opening of the MetroLink Line to passengers.



## 6 Next steps

Transport Infrastructure Ireland will be writing to eligible property owners regarding POPS registration information shortly.

Closer to the start of MetroLink construction in your area, you will be contacted with the details of the panel of three independent firms of building surveyors.

You will be invited to select your preferred firm of building surveyors and they will contact you directly to make arrangements for the initial condition survey to be carried out before construction starts.



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