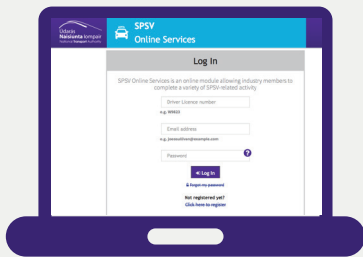




SPSV ONLINE SERVICES

Cheaper and faster than creating a Driver Link by telephone or text



88% of taxis and their drivers are now properly linked and visible on the Driver Check App used over 185,000 times by the public in the last month.

Please make sure you link too. Apart from the public safety aspect, there's a €40 fine every time you are found not to be linked in.

Since the beginning of the year, 166 Fixed Payment Notices have been issued for 'failing to notify details of small public service vehicle being operated'. In April this year, on a single €40 unpaid fine, the court convicted, awarded a €500 fine and €400 costs, leaving the driver with a bill for €900 plus their own costs.

Please register to use the Authority's secure online system for the industry - **SPSV Online Services** - to complete Driver Links and a range of other licence activities.

Getting too many letters or emails?

You can log in to **SPSV Online Services** to disable post or email notifications of your Driver Links. You may particularly wish to do this if you link to different vehicles regularly, or if you share your vehicle with another driver, as frequent link making and breaking mean that a lot of postal or email notifications are generated.

Opt instead to monitor your notifications personally online as you wish. It is accessible 24/7 so you will be able to log into SPSV Online Services at any time to see all your Driver Link details, times and dates. From there, you can also save, print or share them as you require.

If you opt out of receiving your Driver Link notifications by post or email, your licence renewal reminders and legal updates remain unaffected.

To disable email and postal notifications, you must first be registered to use SPSV Online Services. If you have not registered yet, please do so at **SPSV Online Registration**. You will need your account registration number. If you do not have it to hand, please call the **SPSV Information Line** at 0761 064 000 and we will give it to you.

See more about **Disabling Notifications** [here](#)



EXACT NAME MATCH – LICENCE, TAX AND INSURANCE

A licence cannot be granted unless the name on the licence, the name on the insurance certificate and the name on the tax clearance certificate (now e-Tax) are exactly the same. Here are some examples:

Name on licence	Name on certificate	Suitable for licensing?
James Murphy	Jim Murphy	No
	James Murphy Jnr	No
	James Joseph Murphy	No
	Séamus Ó Murchú	No
	James J. Murphy	No
	James Murphy	Yes

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 2016 - WAV16 – APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSED



The application period for the 2016 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Grant Scheme, which opened on Friday 01 April, to continue to encourage the wider availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles in Ireland's fleet, has now closed. 298

provisional offers were issued to applicants and the funding was expended in record time. This Grant Scheme, WAV16, offered disability awareness training, together with financial assistance of up to €10,000 (depending on vehicle age) to purchase a WAV.

For those who have received a Provisional Grant Offer Letter, two things must be accomplished by the date stated in your Provisional Grant Offer Letter to receive the funding:

1. Ensure that your vehicle successfully passes its suitability inspection; and
2. Ensure the proposed driver has successfully completed the free Disability Awareness Training course provided by the Authority or an acceptable equivalent.

Our compliance team is currently corresponding with all recipients of all previous WAV grants to ensure that the services contracted for are being provided throughout the country.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Ireland's target under the Renewable Energy Supply Directive is to ensure that 10% of its transport energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. To make Ireland an early adopter of this technology and in order to achieve this target, the Government is offering a grant together with VRT relief for purchasers of Battery Electric Vehicles or Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

A maximum grant of €5,000 is available for qualifying electric vehicles when purchased privately. The grant level applies equally to Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and Plugin Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV). For a commercial purchase, the maximum grant is capped at €3,800. The grant amount is paid by SEAI directly to the Dealer on your behalf in order to reduce the amount of money required by the customer to purchase the vehicle. For information, please visit the SEAI website:

http://www.seai.ie/Grants/Electric_Vehicle_Grant_Scheme/EV_Grants/

EMAIL



Please ensure that your email address is correct with the Authority. It is important that licence holders provide the Authority with their up to date email address to receive renewal reminders, licence activity, news and details of legal changes.

Please contact the Information Line on 0761 064 000 or taxis@nationaltransport.ie to update your contact details to ensure you do not miss out on important news and notifications. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with any legal or other changes in the industry – make it easier with correct email details.

DISPATCH OPERATORS – BOOKING SERVICES



If you run an SPSV booking service, you must have a dispatch operator's licence. Our compliance team is currently visiting dispatch operators throughout the country to check on licences.

To be a licenced dispatch operator, as an individual or a company, you must:

- Ensure SPSV services are provided only by licensed drivers operating licensed vehicles;
- Maintain up-to-date records of all drivers affiliated to you, including vehicle and driver licences and insurance records;
- Keep a record of all bookings received;
- Provide the Authority with the contact information used for booking SPSV services, including your trading name;
- Be tax cleared with the Revenue Commissioners and ensure that the name held with Revenue is identical to the name on the licence application;
- Maintain staff training records;
- Have a procedure for recording and dealing with complaints; and
- Pay a €100 licence fee to the Authority each year.

A person who acts as a dispatch operator or provides booking services without a current dispatch operator's licence commits an offence for which the fine can be up to €50,000. To apply for a dispatch operator licence, download an application form and guidance note from the Authority's website.



ENSURE YOUR NEW VEHICLE IS SUITABLE BEFORE PURCHASING

Before applying to change your vehicle, you should make sure that the replacement vehicle is suitable and properly equipped for operation as an SPSV in the category to which the licence applies. Please refer to the Vehicle Requirements, Model Report Database, Guidance for Limousine Vehicle Choice and the Initial Suitability Inspection Manual on our website before committing to any purchase www.nationaltransport.ie.



VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Before booking your vehicle inspection, be certain you have read the Vehicle Inspection



Checklist and the Initial Suitability or Renewal Inspection Manuals online to make sure you pass first time.

Book your inspection at least three weeks in advance to be sure you get a suitable location and time. At the moment, many licence holders have to travel or have their vehicles inspected on their busy days because they leave their bookings too late. You can complete your inspection up to 8 weeks prior to the expiry date of the existing licence.

COMPLIANCE



For those applying to renew their SPSV Driver's Licence, applications to An Garda Síochána can be made up to three months prior to the expiry date of the existing licence but must be made no later than six weeks prior to that expiry date.

The Authority's Compliance Officers have encountered a number of drivers whose renewal applications were made less than six weeks before the expiry date and whose licences had expired. In these cases, drivers are not permitted to operate their vehicles as they are not licenced. Since the beginning of the year, over 50 drivers have been detected operating with SPSV Driver Licences which had expired and prosecution files are ongoing.

FREE BESPOKE DEMENTIA TRAINING FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES



Dementia Elevator, a national dementia education programme based in Dublin City University is developing free, bespoke online dementia awareness training for front line staff working in transport services. There are currently 48,000 people living with a type of dementia in Ireland and due to our ageing population this number is set to rise.

Two thirds of people with dementia are living in their homes in our communities and many will continue to use public transport services. This training will be available in Autumn 2016 and will provide staff with some skills to appropriately support passengers with dementia.

For more information visit
www.dementiaelevator.ie
or contact ann-marie.coen@dcu.ie
or 01 700 6190

eTAX CLEARANCE



To operate as a licence holder you must be tax cleared all the time, not just at inspection/renewal. The Revenue Commissioners do not issue paper tax clearance certificates now. All tax clearance must be completed online through **electronic tax clearance (eTax)**, the new Revenue eTax Clearance system, which is accessible through Revenue's ROS or myAccount websites.

For the Driver Licensing process, An Garda Síochána advises that:

“Renewal applications must be submitted on Form PSV 18, accompanied by the following:

- *Driving Licence;*
- *Receipt of payment from National Transport Authority;*
- *Three (3) portrait size photographs; and*
- *Printed copy of online eTax Clearance Certificate.*

No paper tax certificates now issue to applicants. Instead the online eTax Clearance Certificate will show a PPSN/Reference Number and Tax Clearance Access Number; both of which should be provided to An Garda Síochána to verify tax clearance. Applicants can print the screen results from the computer and attach that copy of the eTax Clearance Certificate to the application for a SPSV Driver Licence.”

See Revenue's summary guide to the new application process, real-time assessment, electronic output and on-going review of tax clearance at www.revenue.ie/en/online/etax-clearance-taxi-drivers.pdf

