

### WAV16 REOPENED 05 AUGUST 2016

**WAV16** offers financial grant and training assistance, nationwide, of up to €10,000 for the purchase or conversion of new wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) in order to support the wider availability of WAVs in our SPSV fleet. Cars older than 6 years will not qualify for this Scheme.

Over 389 Provisional Grant Offers of up to €10,000 each have issued since the commencement of WAV16 on 01 April last.

**Due to the unexpected availability of further funding, the Authority has reopened WAV16.**

The limitation of two wheelchair accessible vehicle grants per person has been lifted. No other amendments to the Terms and Conditions have been made.

Download and read these documents before you apply for the WAV16 Grant:



- [Information Guide for WAV16](#)
- [Terms and Conditions for WAV16](#)
- [Application Form WAV16A](#)

For those who have already received a Provisional Grant Offer Letter, two things must be accomplished by the date stated in your letter to receive your 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 making enquiries with the recipients of all previous WAV grants to ensure that the priority wheelchair accessible services contracted for are being provided throughout the country.

### NAME MISMATCH



To operate smoothly, the name on all your licences and your tax clearance must be exactly the same. The Authority has identified several cases where the vehicle licence name matches but the driver licence doesn't. This needs to be fixed. So, we have agreed with An Garda Síochána that we will telephone you to resolve any errors with as little disturbance to you as possible.

If you hold both SPSV driver and vehicle licences, you may be contacted in the coming weeks and asked to confirm the exact spelling of your name. This includes those of you who use a middle name or middle initial. Please call our Information Line with any queries **0761 064 000**.

# DRIVER LINK NOTIFICATIONS WILL ISSUE BY EMAIL ONLY FROM 01 SEPTEMBER 2016

It is each driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the Authority's database is updated, prior to operating an SPSV, by creating a driver to vehicle link. A series of improvements to the driver to vehicle links system was rolled out at the end of 2015. **SPSV Online Services** has proven to provide an easier, better way to link to a vehicle and to update contact details.

During the introductory period of the new system, individual notifications were issued both by letter and email. We have now reviewed this pilot period and notifications by post will be discontinued.

SPSV Online Services will continue to ensure that you can access your information easily. You will continue to have full visibility and control of the activities on your account. You can open your online account at any time to check and update driver link details. When logged in to your account you can view all actions logged against your driver licence; that is all vehicles that you have been linked to, what time these links were made and how they were made.

The process of creating or editing a driver link will remain the same and can be completed on our website, through the SPSV Industry App, by text or by phone.

The email address and password you have been using will not change. The only difference is that letters advising of each individual notification of driver to link change will not issue in the post. They will remain visible online.

If you do not wish to register with SPSV Online services at present, you can still call the Industry Information Line 0761 064 000 or use the Driver Check App to view your status.

Remember, if your driver or vehicle licence expires, or if you change the vehicle associated with your licence, any links on these licences will be broken. You will need to notify the Authority of the vehicle you wish to drive before resuming operations.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?



Make sure that you have provided the Authority with a current email address. To do this, simply call the Industry Information Line 0761 064 000 and we will update your details there and then.

## RENTAL OR LEASE OF SPSVS



The operation of multiple SPSVs through rental or lease agreements is covered by Regulation 50 of the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015. You might rent out one or one hundred vehicles but the obligations are the same. The person providing the rental must own the vehicle, be the holder of the vehicle licence and must provide appropriate SPSV insurance for the period of the rental. To rent or lease your licenced vehicle to another person you must:

- Keep a copy of the drivers licence to drive small public service vehicles;
- Insure the vehicle while it is rented out and keep the original documentation;
- Make sure the vehicle meets the proper vehicle standards and requirements;
- In the case of a taxi, ensure the taximeter is fitted, calibrated and sealed;
- Notify the Authority of the duration of the rental or lease and of the identity of all parties to the arrangement (via SPSV Online Services or the SPSV Information Line); and
- If the renter is a non-national, retain a declaration that the conditions of their permission to remain in the State do not preclude them from operating a business or being self-employed.

The Authority's Compliance Teams are currently visiting rental and leasing operators to inspect the process is being correctly carried out. Breach of Regulation 50 is a "substantial breach" attracting a fine of up to €5,000, together with a criminal conviction.

## €900 FOR DRIVER LINKING OFFENCE

The Authority's Compliance Team continues to undertake general compliance duties and also focus upon specific areas within the SPSV industry.

Almost 6,500 roadside vehicle inspections have been carried out so far this year as part of the team's routine activity and 512 Fixed Payment Notices have been issued to operators for a variety of offences. In 2016, the single largest offence detected continues to be the failure of drivers to notify the Authority of the vehicle being operated, as it was in the previous year. One operator, who was prosecuted this year for failing to pay a €40 Fixed Payment Notice for this offence, was ordered to pay €900 by the Court.

Over 120 operators have been detected operating, or offering, a service without a valid SPSV licence and so far this year over 80 individuals have been referred to the Authority's legal team for prosecution. For operating without a valid SPSV licence, a criminal conviction can be imposed together with a fine of up to €5,000 plus legal costs.

In the remaining months of the year, the Compliance Team will be joining An Garda Síochána in a number of locations across the country for a series of regular SPSV compliance checks.

Any information on illegal activity within the industry can be provided anonymously to the Authority and will be followed up by the Compliance Team.



## WE'RE ALL MADE OF THE SAME STUFF

This Campaign has a core message of celebrating diversity, highlighting that our similarities far outweigh our differences and encouraging anyone who witnesses racism to report it at: [stopracism@immigrantcouncil.ie](mailto:stopracism@immigrantcouncil.ie).

**We're all made of the same stuff**



**Say no to racism on board**

WE ARE ONE  TfI TRANSPORT FOR IRELAND

 Immigrant Council of Ireland

 Garda Síochána

If you experience or witness a racist incident contact us [stopracism@immigrantcouncil.ie](mailto:stopracism@immigrantcouncil.ie)

"The #StopRacism campaign is the single biggest anti-racism campaign delivered in Ireland each year, and is the largest public transport anti-racism campaign of its kind in Europe. It is contributing to increased public awareness of how to report – and ultimately tackle – incidents of racism.

Anyone who reports a racist incident by contacting the Immigrant Council can be assured that reports will be taken seriously and that victims will be offered support."

**Anne Graham,  
Chief Executive of the  
National Transport Authority.**