

Local Hackney Pilot

NTA manages the Rural Transport Programme on behalf of the Department of Transport. The priorities of the Programme continue to include addressing rural social exclusion and the integration of rural transport services with other public transport services. Whilst NTA has improved public transport service provision significantly in both rural and urban areas, we do recognise that current public bus transport cannot meet the demands for travel for many people in rural Ireland, either because it is not available at all or it is not available at the time needed. Taxis and hackneys play an important role in meeting the travel demand when large public transport is not available. However, we acknowledge that there are gaps in the availability of regular taxis and hackneys in many rural communities.

With this in mind, NTA has developed the Local Hackney Pilot, *localhackney.ie*, a grant aided one year pilot programme which aims to assist in the provision of part-time local hackney services in designated rural areas which cannot support a full time taxi or hackney operation. One critical feature of this special limited licence is that no *Local Hackney* service may replace or displace any standard licenced taxi or hackney service already providing services in any area. This Pilot is an important tenet of the Government's "National Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022-2025" and a key deliverable under "Our Rural Future 2021-2025".

The key element of this service is that it will benefit the community by providing licenced, insured, economic transport by Garda vetted drivers in local areas. A Local Hackney may only pick up passengers within a designated area of about 7 - 10km from a chosen point, normally the residence of the licenced driver. The drop off point has no restrictions, with trips to healthcare facilities and transport hubs further afield anticipated. However, the Local Hackney may not pick up a new fare at the drop off point or any other point outside its designated area, which is illustrated on its vehicle licence and must always be carried in the vehicle.

Like any hackney service, a Local Hackney may only be operated on a pre-booked basis and any fare will be agreed in advance of the hire by the driver and the hirer, who is normally the passenger. The Local Hackney Pilot grant aid is designed to contribute towards the fixed costs associated with providing this part-time service. Up to €6,000 will be payable by NTA over one year, in equal monthly instalments, where the service provider can show that the services are being used

and that the Local Hackney is of benefit to the community. NTA will provide sample Journey Record Forms for monthly return and will engage in spot checks in this regard. Each Local Hackney service will also be partnered with a local NTA Compliance Officer who will be a regular point of contact for any licensing or compliance queries.

Following a robust assessment process led by NTA as Taxi Regulator, with significant support from Connecting Ireland, TFI Local Link, Local Authorities and local community personnel, a number of appropriate pilot areas were shortlisted. This Pilot, www.localhackney.ie, will enable NTA to test this operational model thoroughly before considering further policy in this regard and it will also allow us to better estimate the cost of delivering this type of grant aid. This has to be very carefully managed so that it doesn't undermine existing licenced taxi and hackney operators providing services in rural areas. The areas designated for this Pilot are:

Cork: Newmarket	Kilkenny: Freshford	Cavan: Killashandra
Donegal: Milford	Carlow: Bannon	Monaghan: Rockcorry
Gaillimhe: Carna	Limerick: Abbeyfeale	Tipperary: Borrisoleigh
Kerry: Glencar	Longford: Ballinalee	Wicklow: Roundwood
Leitrim: Manorhamilton	Mayo: Killala	Wexford: Castletown
Louth: Lordship	Meath: Drumconrath	Offaly: Kilcormac
Roscommon: Elphin	Westmeath: Castlepollard	Waterford: Kilmacthomas

To be a part of this Pilot, you must:

- a. be resident in, or in close proximity to, the area designated in the map;
- b. provide confirmation from Revenue that your tax affairs are in order - an eTax Clearance Certificate;
- c. be of reputable character and fit to provide the services;
- d. provide a suitable, insured vehicle, less than 10 years old, with a recent NCT certificate;
- e. demonstrate that you understand the transport needs of your community and explain how you will help to fulfil those needs;
- f. commit to providing this local service regularly for community events and activities; and
- g. commit to providing the service for a minimum of 20 hours weekly, including Friday and Saturday nights, over 40 weeks of the year.

The main steps to start providing the Local Hackney service for your community

1. Read the documents available on www.localhackney.ie and check your motor insurance options providing the services.
2. When you are confident that you will be able to complete both the vehicle and driver licensing processes set out in those documents, and in brief below, submit the **Local Hackney Pilot Application Form** to NTA.
3. If your application for consideration for the Pilot is successful, we will contact you, provide you with the relevant licensing documents, and also guide you through the driver and vehicle licensing processes:
 - a. first, the NTA **Vehicle Suitability Test** to be issued a with Local Area Hackney vehicle licence (€50); and
 - b. then, the **Garda vetting and assessment** to be issued a Local Area Hackney driver licence (€20).

THE LOCAL AREA HACKNEY VEHICLE LICENCE PROCESS

Please visit the list of vehicles on www.localhackney.ie to assess whether your vehicle is acceptable for use on this Pilot. Check that your proposed vehicle under 10 years old is on this list. If not, you can email NTA to ask if the vehicle is suitable. At a minimum, to pass NTA's vehicle suitability inspection, the vehicle must:

- be less than 10 years old;
- have a minimum of four doors;
- have a valid NCT roadworthiness certificate – irrespective of age (unlike a private car);
- have fully clear windows – privacy/tinted glass is not permitted for safety reasons;
- carry some required safety equipment; and
- be insured to carry passengers for hire or reward (SPSV insurance).

When you are confident that your proposed vehicle will pass the NTA vehicle suitability inspection, submit the vehicle licence application form to NTA with the €50 vehicle licence fee (bank draft or postal order).

THE LOCAL AREA HACKNEY DRIVER LICENCE PROCESS

This is a separate process for a driver to be granted a Local Area Hackney driver licence, on completion of An Garda Síochána assessment and vetting.

NTA will provide you with a copy of the driver licence application form ('PSV15'). Complete the form and submit it, along with a bank draft or postal order for €20, issued to the National Transport Authority, along with the following:

- two identical passport-style photographs
- your tax clearance access number;
- your original standard driving licence; and
- the licence fee receipt.

NTA will then forward your completed application to An Garda Síochána to commence their vetting process. They will contact you directly for further information, if required, or provide you with your Local Area Hackney driver licence for the designated passenger pickup area.

Having received both of the above licences, you may start providing this vital transport service for your community.

PAYMENT OF YOUR GRANT

NTA will provide you with a Journey Record Form and also ask you to provide details of your nominated bank account. By the 5th working day of each month for the duration of the programme, you must submit your completed Journey Record Form to NTA. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Local Hackney Pilot will be monitored to confirm that the required service is being provided. Where the Terms and Conditions have been met, NTA will issue a monthly payment directly to your bank account.

Local Hackney Pilot - Application

If you are successful in becoming a member of this Local Hackney Pilot, you must then apply for a Local Area Hackney vehicle licence (NTA) and a Local Area Hackney driver licence (An Garda Síochána) to deliver the service. Please read the individual guidance on applying for each of these licences, available on www.localhackney.ie

Section 1: Designated area

For which designated area are you applying?

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Section 2: Applicant details

Surname

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First name

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Address

Contact details

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Mobile Phone

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Email

Section 3: Essential requirements (this section will be pass/fail)

For this 12 month Pilot, will you provide a Local Area Hackney service:

- For a minimum of 20 hours per week?
- For a minimum of 40 weeks during the 12 month Pilot?
- Friday and Saturday evenings within that 40 weeks?
- For local and community events at other times within that 40 weeks?

Yes	No

Booking contact detail:

To provide a Local Hackney service, members of the public must be able to make contact to book your services directly. Please indicate how users will be able to make a booking.

Email	Phone

To be part of this Pilot your booking details (including mobile number and email) will be publicised by NTA and Local Link. Do you consent to this?

Yes	No

Section 4: Desired criteria (this section will be scored)

AVAILABILITY

State your proposed operating hours below. Tick where appropriate

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							
Night							

AFFORDABILITY

Please provide a sample fare to a passenger for a real 5km journey. Please note the area of pick up and drop off.

Pick up point/address:

Drop off point/address:

Fare: €

APPROACH

What local activities occur on a regular basis in your area that may benefit from a Local Hackney service?

Include, by way of example , days and times of social, recreational, sports, religious and educational activities, classes, clinics, etc.

Section 6: Applicant declaration

Signed:

Date:

D	D	/	M	M	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
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Section 7: Return of form

Post:

Local Hackney Pilot, PO Box 436, City North Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway.

The final acceptance date for receipt of applications is February 28, 2023

1. I declare that the information furnished above is true and accurate.
2. I agree that the information furnished above will form part of my Local Hackney Pilot requirements.
3. I accept that NTA reserves the right to approve or reject my application.
4. I agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions of the Local Hackney Pilot.
5. I accept that NTA reserves the right to amend or terminate Local Hackney Pilot applications without notice at any time.
6. I understand that the National Transport Authority may use the information provided for the purpose of administering the SPSV licensing system and in order to perform the functions assigned to it by the Taxi Regulation Acts 2013 and 2016, as amended, including the maintenance of a public register. SPSV licence holder name, vehicle registration and other details pertinent to the licence will be publically available on the public register and can be accessed on TransportforIreland.ie and the Driver Check application. Information provided will be shared with certain authorised third parties where necessary in order to carry out our functions. Further details regarding the personal data that we collect, the purposes for which we use it, individuals' rights in relation to their personal data and how to exercise them are available at www.nationaltransport.ie/further-information/spsv-privacy-statement