

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME - WAV23: CLOSED TO NEW APPLICATIONS

NTA has had a remarkable response since the WAV23 (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle 2023) Scheme opened on the 1st January 2023, which resulted in a waitlist being established. As a result of the high level of interest, the allocated funding was increased in May from €2,000,000 to €3,000,000.

On May 12th 2023, NTA closed the Scheme to new applications. A wait list remains in place for applicants that applied before the closing date and that have not received a provisional grant offer.

It is important that applicants do not commit any money to a vehicle purchase until they have received a provisional grant offer letter from NTA as individual grant aid cannot be guaranteed.

Please note, as per the WAV23 Terms & Conditions, if you license a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle without receipt of a Provisional Grant Offer, you will not receive grant funding.



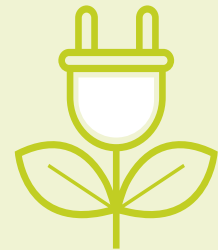
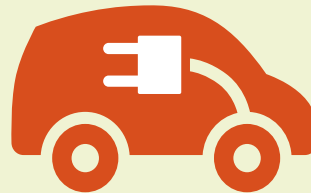
### WAV GRANT COMPLIANCE

Under the Terms & Conditions of the WAV Grant Schemes, recipients of grant funding are required to submit journey records to NTA at six monthly intervals during the 36 month Services Period, or when requested by NTA. If you have received funding under the WAV Grant Scheme please ensure to submit your journey records within six months of receiving funding. The WAV23J Journey Record Form can be found [here](#). Journey records can be submitted by email to [taxis@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:taxis@nationaltransport.ie) or post to WAV Grant Compliance, PO Box 436, City North Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway.



## ELECTRIC SMALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE GRANT SCHEME 2023 – ESPSV23 REMAINS OPEN

Applications are still being accepted for the eSPSV23 Grant Scheme. Of the €15 million allocation, approximately €1.7m had been approved for payment to applicants to date, with a large number of additional applicants progressing positively through the grant process. Further information on the eSPSV23 grant scheme is available [here](#) and applications may be made through our online application portal [here](#).



## SPSV LICENCE EXPIRING IN THE NEXT 2 MONTHS? RENEW NOW!

Is your SPSV licence due to expire in the next 2 months? Please begin your renewal process as soon as possible. This summer is due to be very busy and available renewal inspection appointments may book up quickly in the weeks ahead.

**Processing the renewal of your licence early does not change the annual expiry date of your licence – it remains one full year (or six months) from the date on the current licence.** NTA cannot guarantee the appointment you want if you don't begin the renewal process in good time.

You must have the following at least two working days before calling to book your renewal inspection appointment:

**1. Valid NCT certificate dated within 90 days of your inspection appointment date.**

The dedicated NCT Booking line for SPSV operators is 01-4135960.

**2. Valid electronic tax clearance.**

**Please ensure you have your confidential customer service number 'CCSN' to hand as you will need this for all transactions with NTA. The number is included on most letters and/or emails you received from NTA throughout the year.**



## SUITABILITY INSPECTION REQUIREMENT – VEHICLE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES (“LOG BOOK”)

Evidence of either vehicle ownership or of legal entitlement to use of the vehicle for a period of not less than 12 months, is required to be provided to NTA for licensing purposes.

Since September 2021, not providing original certificates or other evidence of legal entitlement to the use of a vehicle as an SPSV on the day of an SPSV suitability inspection has been recorded as an advisory fail. This has since been introduced as a **fail item** at the SPSV suitability inspection from 1 March 2023.

Licence holders must bring the original vehicle registration certificates (VRC – still commonly referred to as the log book) to all SPSV suitability inspections. The name on the registration certificate must match the name on the SPSV licence.

Where a vehicle is held under a hire purchase or lease agreement, NTA will accept written confirmation on letter headed paper from the registered owner of the vehicle stating the SPSV licence holder is legally entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle for a period of not less than 12 months.

**If neither of these documents are presented, the inspection will result in a fail.**



## COMPLIANCE

NTA compliance continue to work alongside Gardaí to ensure that all licence holders are complying with regulations and, through continued joint covert activity, detect and

prosecute individuals offering SPSV services without any licences. This joint working continues across Garda Divisions.

**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

Laois Division RPU, in collaboration with the National Transport Authority, held a compliance operation on Friday night.

This driver was detected operating for hire/reward without the requisite licences or insurance to do so.

Court to follow.

**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

Birr Garda and the NTA carried out a joint operation over the weekend the Birr and Banagher areas.

2 vehicles and drivers were found to operating as taxis without the proper licences or insurance.

Court is to follow for both motorists.

#SaferRoads

**An Garda Síochána** @GardaTraffic

The Santry Roads Policing Unit, accompanied by our colleagues in the National Transport Authority carried out a number of checks on Taxis at Dublin Airport.

Approximately 100 taxis were checked with a number of fines issued for various Road Traffic Offences.

#SaferRoads

## PROSECUTIONS

In the Dublin District Court in April, NTA prosecuted a driver for refusing a passenger at a taxi rank. The passenger, a wheelchair user, was refused despite being able to transfer from the wheelchair to the rear seat, asking the driver to place the wheelchair in the vehicle boot. In addition to the offence of refusing a passenger, NTA also prosecuted the driver for discriminating against the passenger as set out within the Equal Status Acts. These acts prohibit discrimination on nine grounds – disability, gender, marital status, family status, age, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community.

Following a successful prosecution, in addition to ordering that the driver make payments to the court and NTA, the judge directed the driver to pay compensation to the complainant.



## SECTION 14 – PROHIBITION ON LICENCE TRANSFER

Section 14 of the Taxi Regulation Acts 2013 and 2016 precludes the transfer of a small public service vehicle (SPSV) licence. The only way an SPSV licence can be transferred is through the two-part nomination and assignment process set out at Section 15 of the Taxi Regulation Acts. This section of the Act requires SPSV licence holders to “nominate in writing to the Authority a person as his or her representative who may apply to the Authority to continue to operate the licence in the event of his or her death.” The application form to nominate a person to take over your licence after your death (Form S15N) is available [here](#).



## VEHICLE LICENCE HOLDER OBLIGATIONS – RENTING



SPSV Regulations permit a vehicle licence holder to rent a licenced vehicle to another person. The person providing the rental must own the vehicle or be entitled to use it as an SPSV while also being the holder of the vehicle licence, and must provide appropriate insurance for the period of the rental. The person providing the rental must notify the Authority of the rental, either using NTA's **online system**, or by calling the SPSV Information Line on 0818 064 000. **Only the**

**SPSV licence holder can make suitability inspection bookings.** NTA cannot discuss the particulars of an SPSV licence with anyone other than the SPSV licence holder.

The driver must hold a valid SPSV Driver Licence, issued by An Garda Síochána. The driver renting the vehicle must ensure they create a driver to vehicle link before operating.

## LICENCE EXPIRY: OBLIGATIONS ON LICENCE HOLDERS

A reminder that where a vehicle licence expires, the holder of the licence must complete the following within 21 days:

- return the licence and any badge or disc to NTA,
- provide written confirmation that any sign or disc affixed to the vehicle in accordance with SPSV regulations has been removed from the vehicle, and
- in the case of a taxi, cease to display taxi signage on the vehicle immediately upon receipt of the notification from NTA of the expiry of the licence.



## GUIDE DOGS AND ASSISTANCE DOGS

All SPSVs must carry guide dogs, assistance dogs and mobility aids for passengers who need them, at no extra charge. These are animals that have been specifically trained to assist a person with a disability. All guide dogs wear a harness that indicates the type of guide dog they are: guide dogs for the blind have a white and yellow reflective strip (older harnesses may have an orange reflective strip); assistance dogs (for families of children with autism) have a blue harness. It is an offence to refuse to carry a guide dog or an assistance dog.

Some tips for picking up a customer who is blind or vision impaired:

- Ask if they would like some help getting into the car. Walk up to the person and stop at their right hand side (the Guide Dog or Assistance Dog will always walk on their owner's left side).
- Push back the passenger seat as far as it will go, so that the Guide Dog or Assistance Dog has plenty of room to curl up in the passenger seat foot well next to their owner.

- Communicate with the passenger and let them know how far away the door is.
- Let the person know if you are stepping on to or off kerbs, or steps.
- Look at them and speak to them directly, as you would to anyone else.
- During the journey drive smoothly. Keep in mind that it may take your passenger longer to find the fare at the end of the journey.
- Remember, guide dogs are working dogs, so do not be tempted to distract them – for example, do not pet or feed them.



## DEMENTIA: UNDERSTAND TOGETHER LAUNCH NEW DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY SYMBOL

Transport for Ireland is proud to be a part of the Dementia Inclusive Community. This new community symbol has been developed with people living with dementia at its heart.

We're using the symbol to show that we stand together with people with dementia and their families and friends. We're committed to working together with our staff and customers to make our service as inclusive as possible.

Wherever you see this symbol there is support for people with dementia.

Further information is available at [www.transportforireland.ie/dementia-understand-together/](http://www.transportforireland.ie/dementia-understand-together/)



## SPSV CONTACT CENTRE

Many SPSV industry members will remember the **Taxi Driver Respect** campaign promoted by NTA and TFI in 2019. That campaign wanted to remind passengers that drivers, like all other workers, have a right to expect a working environment that is free of abuse and aggression.

In 2022 the SPSV Information and Booking Lines handled 116,685 inbound calls from SPSV industry members and consumers.

While the vast majority of callers remain courteous and professional, there has been a noticeable increase in abusive and aggressive callers.

NTA would like to remind all industry members that abusive and/or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated. Where a caller displays such behaviour, the call will be terminated.



## SPSV+ APP

NTA has launched a new app for SPSV online services, called SPSV+. With the new, user friendly app you will be able to complete driver linking and vehicle rentals in the same place. SPSV+ is available on the app store and Google play store. An information video is available [here](#).



# HAPPY PRIDE FROM TFI

Wishing everyone participating in Pride 2023 a great June and beyond.

Transport for Ireland – Proud Sponsors of Dublin LGBTQ+ Pride 2023