

MAXIMUM TAXI FARE REVIEW 2024: HAVE YOUR SAY

The National Maximum Taxi Fare Review is carried out by the NTA approximately every two years to assess changes in operating costs for taxi owners, renters and drivers.

Confidential telephone surveys of approximately 500 drivers nationwide are taking place in February and March to inform the results of this Review. **NTA appreciates the time and assistance given by all of you who have already answered survey calls, and encourages all drivers who receive a survey call to have their say.**

NTA will keep operators updated as the Review progresses, with a public consultation inviting operator and user submissions to follow.



HIGHER WEIGHTING OF TAXI FARES FOR NIGHT TIME WORK

Results of the Maximum Taxi Fare Review research undertaken in February 2022 showed that 30% of licensed taxi drivers would provide services to the night time economy if the fares were increased. Taxi users surveyed also showed that they would absorb quite substantial increases to get services provided at night. NTA subsequently increased taxi fares during the hours from 20:00 to 08:00. Drivers can operate during the peak fare times of the night time economy to maximise earning potential and to help ensure the supply of taxis meets demand.



COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

ROLLOUT OF MOBILE COMPLIANCE APP TO AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

In November 2023, NTA rolled out its SPSV compliance app to members of Garda Roads Policing. As authorised persons under the law, Gardaí can now, for the first time, complete SPSV searches and pull up licence information as part of their roadside checks. Initially rolled out on a pilot basis to a select number of users from across the country, plans for a wider rollout to Roads Policing units are scheduled for 2024.



COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

UNLICENCED DETECTIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

NTA Compliance Teams continue to work alongside An Garda Síochána, Revenue and the Department of Social Protection nationwide to ensure that all licence holders are complying with regulations and, through continued joint covert activity, detect and prosecute individuals offering SPSV services without valid licences and other matters.

In November, NTA Compliance Officers and An Garda Síochána carried out an operation in Cork that resulted in the detection of an unlicensed driver. This driver is now subject to prosecution. In 2023 NTA initiated 222 criminal prosecutions of which 61% related to the operation of an unlicensed service. These detections included persons operating services with no SPSV driver and/or vehicle licence and also displaying taxi signage while unlicensed.

This type of compliance activity is carried out specifically for the purpose of ensuring safety for members of the travelling public and to ensure fairness to SPSV operators who work legally within the regulatory framework of the SPSV industry.

CASHLESS PAYMENTS

NTA continues to receive complaints in relation to refusal to accept cashless payments. The regulations are clear, every taxi should have a functioning cashless payment device and where a passenger wishes to use that method to pay, it must be accepted.

NTA will continue to inform passengers that this is a legal requirement and they have the right to pay any taxi fare by means of a cashless payment. NTA will investigate all passenger complaints where it appears that this is not the case.



An Garda Síochána @Gar... · 22 Oct 23

Earlier in the week, Cork City Roads Policing conducted a Public Service Vehicle compliance operation with [@TFIupdates](#).

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

The vehicle was seized and the driver will face court.



OPTIONS FOR NEW LICENCE HOLDERS

HOLD YOUR OWN VEHICLE LICENCE

Whilst each SPSV driver must decide their own business strategy, it's worth knowing that purchasing a second hand wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) under a new SPSV Licence is currently the most economical option available. Second hand WAVs are readily available for purchase and a second hand WAV up to 6 years of age can be licensed and then operated until it reaches 15 years from the date of first registration.

Should SPSV drivers require financial support, the Microenterprise Loan Fund provides vital support by filling the lending gap in the market by lending to businesses that cannot obtain loans from other commercial lenders. Further information on the range of services offered by Microfinance Ireland is available [here](#).

RENTAL AGREEMENTS

Choosing not to apply for your own vehicle licence? The regulations permit a vehicle licence holder to rent their insured vehicle to another person. The person providing the rental must:

- provide appropriate insurance for the period of the rental;
- notify NTA of the rental, either using the NTA online system, or by calling the SPSV Information Line (0818 064 000);
- provide NTA with the details of the period of the arrangement;
- provide NTA with the SPSV driver licence number and the vehicle registration number; and
- keep the associated records up to date at all times.

GRANT SCHEMES

ESPSV24

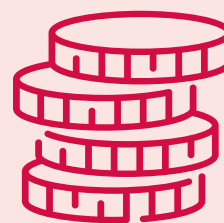
NTA is pleased to confirm that the eSPSV Grant Scheme 2024 opened for applications on 19th February 2024.

This year, the Department of Transport has made €11,500,000 of grant funding available to assist licence holders with replacing current vehicles with electric vehicles. Applicants who receive an offer of funding will have 3 months to complete licensing of their electric vehicle and receive the grant. NTA has already issued over 500 offer letters to applicants. Further information on the Scheme and how to apply can be found [here](#).



WAV24

NTA opened the WAV Grant Scheme 2024 on the 2nd January 2024 to an unprecedented level of interest in the opening hours and days. In all, in excess of 2,900 applications were received prior to the Scheme being closed to applications on the 1st of February. All funding has now been allocated and NTA has issued Provisional Grant Offers to hundreds of applicants, and contacted all other applicants confirming the status of their application, some of who remain on a cancellation list should current offers not be taken up.



GRANT SCHEMES

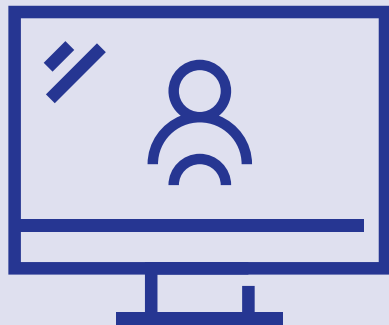
REMINDER GRANTS SERVICE PERIOD

Licence holders who have received a grant – WAV or EV – are reminded that it is a condition of the grant that the vehicle is used to provide the service for a period of 3 years from date of payment. Where this is not the case, part of the grant may be required to be repaid. Any such licence holder who is considering a change of vehicle should bear this in mind and should contact NTA at 0818 064 000 to check if this affects them.

SPSV DRIVER E-LEARNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

SPSV drivers are professional drivers and have a unique reach into society, dealing with all walks of life in a one-to-one setting. They may see and hear things that others may not. Recognising this, on the 1st January 2024, NTA launched a free professional development course for SPSV drivers. The course, which is provided online and takes 30 minutes, is being piloted to new entrants to the SPSV driver industry. It contains two modules, 1) safeguarding and 2) disability awareness.

The objective of the course is to enhance the services provided by SPSV drivers and to help these drivers ensure customer comfort and safety to the best of their ability.



RESPECT CAMPAIGN

Across November and December, Transport for Ireland rolled out a new ‘Staff Respect’ campaign to encourage customers to show respect for public transport drivers, staff and taxi drivers who provide us all with vital services.

The taxi driver ‘Respect’ image that was rolled out is shown below. Further details can be found [here](#).

