

June 2026

ISSUE 72

INDUSTRY INFORMATION LINE: 0818 064 000



'Selling' a taxi licence??



NTA Investigations

Get your own licence
Be your own boss



'Selling' your taxi licence??

Has someone told you to sell your taxi licence?

Are they offering to pay you or charging a fee for arranging it?

The law is clear:
Selling a taxi licence is
ILLEGAL



Your details remain on the NTA database at all times and cannot be changed. Even if money changes hands, you remain legally responsible for your SPSV licence.

If you've been told you can simply 'sell' or 'hand over' your licence to someone else and walk away, **they are lying to you!**

You could be exposed to **serious legal and financial risk** as a result.



Thinking of 'buying' a taxi licence??

Has someone offered or arranged to sell you a taxi licence?

Have they promised you can operate under the licence?

Are you being asked to pay a fee for this arrangement?

The law is clear:

Buying a taxi licence is

ILLEGAL



The licence always remains in the original holder's name. This means:

- You will have no legal ownership or protection
- The licence holder may withdraw access at any time
- Any dispute could become a matter for An Garda Síochána
- The NTA may suspend or revoke the licence if misuse is identified

If you've paid for a taxi licence, you have no protection and the NTA may declare the licence unusable when its discovered that the 'seller' is no longer in control.

Taxi Plate 'Management Companies'

If you have a taxi licence, you alone are responsible for it. The NTA will only speak to the licence holder in relation to their SPSV licence.

Taxi plate 'management companies' do not align with the NTA requirements, regardless of what they may state on advertisements or websites. The NTA will investigate any websites advertising illegal services.

If you chose to engage with these management companies, you do so at **your own risk**.



Illegal Advertising and Services



Have you seen an ad about a taxi licence for sale?

Do you know these adverts are illegal and the associated licence can be declared invalid by the NTA?

The NTA will investigate any adverts selling SPSV licence and have them removed.

Protect your family from third parties

The NTA is unfortunately aware that third parties are engaging the families of deceased taxi licence holders shortly after their death, in an effort to illegally 'sell' their loved one's taxi licence.

In some cases, families waste significant time and money engaging the NTA on the matter after they have been convinced they can illegally sell their taxi plate. These efforts will never be successful and the related stress on families is wholly unnecessary.

The NTA condemns these actions in the strongest possible terms.

We encourage all SPSV licence holders to ensure their family is aware of their business matters to protect them from third parties seeking their own profits. If in doubt, talk to us.

NTA investigations

Are any of the following true for you?

- Did you pay somebody besides the NTA for an SPSV licence?
- Were you told you had to sign your vehicle over to somebody else to do this?
- Have you engaged with a third party, including a so called 'taxi plate management company' to buy a taxi plate?
- Have you pretended to be the old licence holder when communicating with the NTA?

If yes, your livelihood may be at risk.

NTA investigations

The NTA has a nationwide SPSV compliance team that works 24/7. Did you know they don't just check your SPSV? They also carry out joint inspections with:

- An Garda Síochána
- Revenue (Tax)
- Social Welfare
- the NSAI



An Garda Síochána
Ireland's National Police and Security Service



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Revenue 
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs



If you choose to operate an SPSV illegally in any way, you may also be at risk from the outcomes of these joint inspections.

Be your own boss, get your own licence!

Entering the industry

Getting your own taxi, hackney or limousine licence is straightforward; each year, hundreds of new vehicle licences are registered.

If you hold an SPSV driver licence, you can easily apply for your own SPSV vehicle licence, operate it yourself, and be your own boss.

There are a range of options available depending on the job you want. Wheelchair accessible taxis and hackneys can be licensed as new taxis and hackneys, and grants are available every year. Certain saloon vehicles may be licensed as limousines, and if these vehicles are electric, you may be eligible for the eSPSV grant.

If you live in a rural area, the new Local Area Hackney licence makes it easier than ever to work in your own community, with low licence fees, no WAV requirement and no requirement to sit SPSV driver exams.

Benefits

Getting your own licence gives you more freedom, safety and peace of mind. With your own licence, you choose how and when to work. You can operate independently, join a dispatch operator or work the taxi ranks - allowing you to choose an approach which suits your lifestyle and business goals.



'Why choose a WAV?'

Choosing a WAV means getting your own licence and owning your own business.

While WAVs can cost more to buy, you don't have to buy them new. You can licence a 6-year-old WAV and they can be operated for much longer than a saloon, reducing the lifetime cost. Being a WAV, you can also accept more journeys directly from passengers and from taxi apps, earning you more money!



'But I can't get a WAV Grant?'

Did you know in 2025, almost half of new WAV licences were applied for without a grant?

Lots of people are getting their own WAV, why not you?

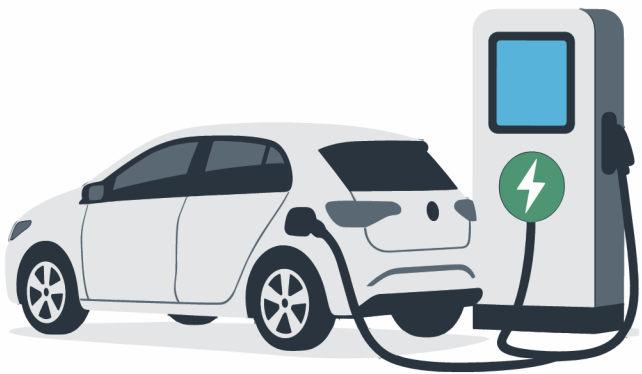


Which SPSV licence is best for you?

You can choose to licence a wheelchair accessible taxi, which allows you to use bus lanes, pick up passengers at taxi ranks and calculate fares with a taxi meter.

Alternatively, you can licence a wheelchair accessible hackney and set your own charges.

Operating a hackney also means you don't need to apply signage or a roof sign to your car, making it easier to operate as a family car.



Did you know that you can get the eSPSV grant for a limousine also? In 2026, €7,500 was available towards a new limousine licence.

If you live in a rural area and wish to only serve your local community, you can also licence a saloon vehicle under the Local Area Hackney (LAH) licence.

Recent updates to the LAH licence mean more areas across Ireland are now eligible than ever before.

See if an LAH licence is right for you at www.localhackney.ie

The NTA is here to
help!

Entering into illegal arrangements costs more
and exposes you to significant risk

The NTA helps you operate with confidence and security by providing:

- Clear, transparent licensing processes with no hidden fees or requirements
- Guidance and support when applying for licences or entering the industry
- Grants and special licences, such as the WAV and eSPSV grant and Local Area Hackney licence, to support new and existing drivers

By working with us, you protect yourself, your business, and your passengers. The NTA is committed to supporting you in doing just that. **Contact us now for more information.**