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Help With Travel Costs

Personal Legal Services

If you are disabled you may be entitled to free or discounted travel on public transport. If you are a driver you may be entitled to an exemption from paying road tax, and to a blue badge which gives you parking concessions.

Bus

If you are disabled you have the right to free bus travel. Contact your local council for more details about their scheme, you can reach your local council's bus pass web page by using the postcode search on www.gov.uk

Train

If you travel by train, you may also qualify for a Disabled Person's Railcard, which entitles you and an accompanying adult to one-third off the price of a rail ticket, on off-peak travel.

You qualify for a Disabled Persons Railcard if:

- **You are registered as having a visual impairment-Social Services official stamp in the space allocated on the application form**
A copy of your Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI), BP1 Certificate (Scotland) or BD8 Certificate for being registered blind or partially-sighted
- **You are registered as deaf or use a hearing aid-Social Services official stamp in the space allocated on the application form**
A copy of the front page of your NHS battery book or a copy of your dispensing prescription from a private hearing aid supplier

- **You have epilepsy and either: have repeated attacks even though you receive drug treatment; or are currently prohibited from driving because of your epilepsy**
A copy of your Exemption Certificate for epilepsy medication and a photocopy of your prescription for drugs in line with the National Society for Epilepsy guidelines
A copy of your Exemption Certificate for epilepsy medication and a photocopy of your letter from the DVLA telling you that you are unable to drive
- **You receive Attendance Allowance**
A copy of your award letter
- **You receive Personal Independence Payments**
A copy of your award letter
- **You receive Disability Living Allowance at either: the higher rate or lower rate for getting around (mobility); or the higher or middle rate for help with personal care**
A copy of your award letter showing receipt of Disability Living Allowance in the past 12 months
- **You receive Severe Disablement Allowance**
A copy of your award letter
- **You receive War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement**
A copy of your award letter
- **You receive War or Service Disablement Pension for 80% or more disability**
A copy of your award letter
- **You are buying or leasing a vehicle through the Motability scheme**
A copy of the leasing or hire purchase agreement, dated within the past 12 months
- **You receive Armed Forces Independence Payments**
A copy of your award letter

Please send in one of the above forms of documentation with your application. Photocopies and printed scans are acceptable – original documents will not be returned.

Car

Exemption from paying Road Tax

If you are a disabled driver, you may get an exemption from paying Road Tax. The registered keeper can apply for free tax. The vehicle's registered keeper could be:

- The person with the illness or disability, or
- Someone who uses their vehicle only for the purposes of the ill or disabled person.

How to apply for free tax for the first time

Applying for the first free tax is different from renewing it every year.

For new vehicles, the Certificate of Entitlement to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) should be taken to the dealership in order to claim the free tax. For vehicles registered with a Northern Ireland address, you should also take an insurance certificate valid on the day the tax comes into force.

For used vehicles, when free tax is first applied for, the tax class of the vehicle must be changed at a Post Office branch that deals with vehicle tax.

Take the following documents:

- Full vehicle registration certificate (V5C) or the V5C/2 (new keeper's details) and a filled in 'application for a vehicle registration certificate' (V62)
- Certificate of Entitlement to DLA or PIP or AFIP (please write the registration number of the vehicle in the top right hand corner)
- A certificate of insurance or cover note (downloaded or faxed copies are acceptable, photocopies are not), valid on the day the tax comes into force, for vehicles registered with a Northern Ireland address
- An original MoT or GVT certificate (if your vehicle needs one).

For your nearest Post Office branch that deals with vehicle tax go to www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder or call: **0345 722 3344**.

How to renew free tax

Once the tax class of the vehicle is shown as disabled, the 'Reminder to get vehicle tax or make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN)' (V11) or V5C can be used in the following ways:

- Online at www.gov.uk/vehicletax (not available for AFIP customers)
- By phone on **0300 123 4321** (not available for AFIP customers)
- Textphone on **0300 790 6201** (hard of hearing customers only), or
- At a Post Office branch that deals with vehicle tax. For further information go to www.gov.uk/vehicletax.

The use of the vehicle in the disabled tax class

The vehicle must either be used by the disabled person or, someone else who only uses their vehicle to help them, for example, to get prescriptions or shopping for the disabled person.

If the exemption no longer applies

If the vehicle is not used as described above or the disabled person is no longer entitled to free disabled tax, the vehicle must be taxed in the appropriate tax class at a Post Office branch that deals with vehicle tax using the V5C or the V5C/2 and a V62, MoT/GVT (if applicable), and the appropriate fee (if applicable).

When to get a replacement Certificate

A replacement Certificate is needed when:

- The registered keeper or their vehicle has changed, or
- The Certificate has been lost, stolen or damaged.

To get a replacement Certificate contact:

DLA (GB customers only)

- By phone on **0845 712 3456**
- By textphone on **0845 722 4433** (speech or hearing difficulties), or PIP (GB customers only) and AFIP (GB and NI customers)
- By phone on **0845 850 3322**
- By textphone on **0845 601 6677** (speech or hearing difficulties).

Important

If you do not apply for, and receive, a new Certificate of Entitlement to DLA or PIP or AFIP when you change your vehicle, you will be unable to apply for free vehicle tax.

Motability Car Leasing Scheme

Some claimants of Personal Independence Payments or Disability Living Allowance could apply for the Motability Car Leasing Scheme, for more information please visit www.citizenadvice.org.uk and search for 'motability'.

Parking - Blue Badge Parking Permit

Anyone aged over two years old automatically qualifies for a Blue Badge, if they are:

- Registered blind
- Receiving the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement.

Other people with severe disabilities may also qualify following assessment by their local council.

The Blue Badge Parking Permit allows people who qualify for the scheme – as a driver or a passenger – to park close to where they need to go. It also provides exemption from some tolls at river crossings, bridges and tunnels as well as the London Congestion Charge - although in most cases you have to apply in advance to qualify.

It can also be used in some European Union countries. The scheme is available throughout the UK, but the rules about where you can park differ in each country.

There are also restrictions in the following London Boroughs, which have their own concessions:

- City of London
- City of Westminster
- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- Part of the London Borough of Camden.

How do I apply?

You apply for a Blue Badge, which is usually valid for up to three years, through your local council. There may be a small charge.



“Thank you so much for your help and support over the past five years. The whole experience has been made more bearable by having an understanding and sympathetic guide.”

Mr and Mrs Luthers

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human touch

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