



Disability factsheet Mobility and Transport

Transport is an important issue for disabled people. The availability of accessible transport, or lack of it, can affect quality of life. This factsheet provides information on different types of transport available including transport schemes and organizations concerned with disabled people's different transport needs. The Equality Act 2010 covers the use of vehicles. This includes getting on and off vehicles and the service a disabled person receives while travelling in them.

The duties under the Equality Act apply to the following vehicles:

Buses and coaches
Taxis and private hire vehicles
Trains
Trams and light railways
Rental cars
Breakdown recovery vehicles

Car Travel

Motability

This is a government-backed scheme which allows disabled people to use their mobility component to lease a car or a powered wheelchair/scooter. To be eligible for the scheme you must be in receipt of one of the following:

- the enhanced rate of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- War Pensioner's mobility supplement

You must have at least 12 months of this award left when you apply.

Even if you don't drive you can apply for a car as a passenger. An application for a car can also be made on behalf of a child aged 3 years and upwards.

Some financial assistance may be available through Motability for car adaptations and driving



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lessons. For more information about both schemes contact:

Motability Operations.
City Gate House
22 Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HB
Tel: 0300 456 4566.
Website: www.motability.co.uk

The Scottish Driving Assessment Service

This provides a national information and advice service on all aspects of driving and car travel for disabled people. They can also carry out assessments of disabled people wishing to learn to drive or to resume driving after an illness or accident. Following an assessment they can advise on appropriate vehicles and adaptations, as well as providing information on driving schools which have automatic and/or adapted vehicles.

Assessment is free, although a referral letter from a doctor giving brief medical details about the person is required before an appointment can be made.

Assessments are carried out in Edinburgh but also in Paisley through a mobile service. For more information contact:

Scottish Driving Assessment Service
SMART Centre
Astley Ainslie Hospital
133 Grange Loan
Edinburgh
EH9 2HL
Tel: 0131 537 9192
E-mail: marlene.mackenzie@nhs.lothian.scot.uk
Website: www.smart.scot.nhs.uk/services/driving-assessment

Driving Mobility

This is a network of organisations including the Scottish Driving Assessment Service. Their website has information on subjects such as “Return to Driving” and “Physical Disability”. For more information contact:

Driving Mobility
Tel: 0800 559 3636
Email: info@drivingmobility.org.uk
Website: www.drivingmobility.org.uk

Rica

This is a national research charity which focuses on issues of concern to disabled and older consumers. They produce reports and guides about their findings. They have produced a selection of reports on motoring and disability which can be viewed on their website. For more information contact:

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Rica
G03
The Wenlock
50-52 Wharf Road
London
N1 7EU
Tel: 020 7427 2460
Email: mail@rica.org.uk
Website: www.rica.org.uk

The Blue Badge Scheme

This is a national arrangement of parking concessions for people with severe walking difficulties who travel either as drivers or passengers. The blue badge is also valid in the European Union.

You can get a blue badge if you:

- receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP
- receive the higher rate of the mobility component of DLA
- receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement
- are registered blind
- have a permanent and substantial disability which means you are unable to walk or virtually unable to walk.
- are a child under the age of three who requires transportation of heavy medical equipment or may need treatment quickly for a specific medical condition.
- have a temporary but substantial disability which is likely to last for a period of at least 12 months but less than 3 years which means you are unable to walk or virtually unable to walk.

To apply for a blue badge, contact your local authority.

For general information about the scheme, look at the following website: www.transport.gov.scot/road/blue-badge-scheme

You can get information about using your Blue Badge in Europe here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/blue-badge-using-it-in-the-eu

Accessible Car Hire

There are a few companies in Scotland which have accessible vehicles for hire. Get in touch with Advice Service Capability Scotland for more information.

Lynx Hand Controls Ltd

Provide hand controls for hire cars. The control is supplied and fitted in the hired car complete with steering ball, to customer requirements and UK specifications. Lynx acts as a booking agent for most major hire companies and make all the car hire arrangements free of charge. The hired car is delivered by a driver experienced in use of control systems, who will instruct the hirer on how to operate the control correctly.



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Contact:

Lynx Hand Control Ltd.
80 Church Lane
Aughton
Nr Ormskirk
Lancashire
L39 6SB
Tel: 0844 824 3900
Fax: 0844 824 3901
E-mail: info@lynxcontrols.com
Website www.lynxcontrols.com

Bus Travel

Traveline Scotland

This organisation provides information on travel in Scotland. Their website has information for disabled travellers including information on the availability of accessible toilets, information on the accessibility of individual bus stops, stations, airports and ferry terminals and the availability of assistance for disabled people at bus stations, ferry terminals and rail stations. It also has contact details for bus companies in Scotland.

Contact:

Traveline Scotland
2 Walker Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7LA
Tel: 0871 200 22 33
Website: www.travelinescotland.com

National Entitlement Card

This replaces local concession cards and entitles people over 60 and eligible disabled people living in Scotland to free bus travel to anywhere in Scotland. To qualify disabled people should be in receipt of one of the following:

- the standard or enhanced rate of PIP
- the higher rate of the mobility component or the high or middle rate of the care component of DLA
- Attendance Allowance
- a blue badge.

Others who qualify include those with a visual impairment, are profoundly or severely deaf, have mental health issues and people who have been, or would be, refused a driving licence on medical grounds. However there are also other criteria.

Application forms are available from Local Authorities, post offices or Strathclyde Passenger Transport Travel Centres, but it may be best to contact your Local Authority for information on

the application process in your area.

The website for Transport Scotland has more information: <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/public-transport/concessionarytravel>

Train Travel

There are several train companies operating in Scotland. These are listed on Traveline Scotland's website with links to their websites. The websites have information about station accessibility and how to request assistance.

Website: www.travelinescotland.com

National Rail Enquiries

This website and phone line gives advice on journey planning and train service updates.

The website also has a map of the mainland National Rail network that provides at-a-glance information about the accessibility of many stations. This is called "Stations Made Easy".

The map uses symbols to indicate if each station has step-free access to all platforms from the station entrance, or limited access.

For more information contact:

National Rail Enquiries

Customer Relations Team

Suite 410

1 Northumberland Avenue

Trafalgar Square

London

WC2N 5BW

Tel: 03457 484 950

Email: customer.relations@nationalrail.co.uk

Website: www.nationalrail.co.uk

The Disabled Persons Railcard

This allows you to buy discounted rail tickets. If another adult is traveling with you, they can also travel at the same discounted fare. There are two cards available: a one-year card and a three-year card.

To qualify for a railcard, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- registered as visually impaired
- registered deaf
- have epilepsy, and are disabled by repeated attacks even though you receive drug

- treatment or are prohibited from driving because of your epilepsy
- receive Attendance Allowance
- receive PIP (standard or enhanced rate)
- receive DLA (mobility component or middle or high rate care component)
- receive Severe Disablement Allowance
- receive War Pensioner's mobility supplement
- receive war or service disablement pension for 80% or more disability
- are buying or leasing a vehicle through the 'Motability' scheme.

The application form is available online. Completed application forms need to be returned to the address below. You should include proof of entitlement and payment. The application form lists what you need as proof of eligibility. For more information contact:

Disabled Persons Railcard Office
PO Box 6613
Arbroath
DD11 9AN
Tel: 0345 605 0525
Textphone: 0345 601 0132
E-mail: disability@atoc.org
Website: www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

Air Travel

Aircraft are still exempt from the Equality Act. However, airline operators do have duties not to discriminate against disabled people and to make reasonable adjustments in respect of matters such as timetables, booking facilities and waiting rooms at airports. In addition to this, European law states that people who are disabled or who have difficulty getting around are entitled to assistance when flying to or from Europe. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has produced two booklets "Your Rights to Fly-a step-by-step guide for disabled and less mobile passengers" and "Your Passport to a Smooth Journey: top tips for disabled and less mobile air passengers". The booklets give information on disabled people's rights when flying and what can be done to make their journey run as smoothly as possible.

You can download the booklets from their website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

There are several airports in Scotland. These are listed on Traveline Scotland's website with links to their websites. The websites include information for customers who need assistance or have additional needs.

Website: www.travelinescotland.com

Ferries

Like aircraft, ferries are exempt from the Equality Act, but ferry companies have a duty not to discriminate against disabled people and to make reasonable adjustments in respect

of matters such as timetables, booking facilities and services at ferry ports. However new regulations now give disabled people the right to accessibility assistance when travelling by sea.

Traveline Scotland's website has a list of ferry operators in Scotland with links to their websites. The websites have information about access for disabled travellers.
Website: www.travelinescotland.com

Taxis

You can search for taxi companies that will pick up passengers at a particular train station on the following website: www.traintaxi.co.uk

Community Transport Schemes

Community transport schemes are non-profit making transport services for people who have difficulty using public transport. The Community Transport Association has information on schemes running in different areas. For more information contact:

The Community Transport Association
21 Walker Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7HX
Tel: 0131 220 0052
Website: www.ctauk.org

More information

www.gov.uk
This website has information on driving and transport including information for disabled people. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can contact Advice Service Capability Scotland for more information.

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Our Advice Service

Advice Service Capability Scotland is a national disability advice and information service. We specialise in information on cerebral palsy.

We offer:

- information on Capability Scotland services
- advice on cerebral palsy
- general advice on disability issues

You can get in touch with us by calling, e-mailing, dropping in or writing a letter.

This Factsheet can be made available in other formats e.g. audio, large print



Capability Scotland
Osborne House
1 Osborne Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HG

Telephone: 0131 313 5510
Email: advice@capability-scotland.org.uk
www.capability-scotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity SCO11330