

FAMILY GUIDES

Help with travel costs



**Patient
Claim
Line.com**

Did you know that if you have a disability, **you may be entitled to discounted or free travel costs on public transport?**



Travelling by bus

If you have a disability you are eligible to access free bus travel under the [English National Concessionary Travel Scheme](#). To discover more about how to access your free bus pass from your local council, all you have to do is search using your postcode on [Gov.uk](#).

In addition to your free bus travel, [National Express](#) offer a [Disabled Coachcard](#), which costs only £12.50 a year and enables you to save 1/3 off coach travel across the UK, this is open to anyone with a disability.





Travelling by train

If you travel by train regularly, you may be eligible for a [Disabled Persons Railcard](#). This railcard saves you and an accompanying adult 1/3 off your train fare, which could give you an [annual saving of £91*](#). However, to have access to the Disabled Persons Railcard, you must meet the [eligibility criteria](#).



Some of the criteria include:

- You receive [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#) or [Adult Disability Payment \(ADP\)](#)
- You receive [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) or [Child Disability Payment \(CDP\)](#) at either: the higher or lower rate for the mobility component, or the higher or middle rate for the care component
- You have a visual Impairment
- You have a hearing impairment
- You have epilepsy
- You have purchased or lease a vehicle through the mobility scheme

There are many other disabilities and conditions that you may meet in order to be eligible, you must be able to prove you match the [outlined criteria](#) when you apply. You can download the [application form here](#).



Travelling by car

If you drive and have a disability, you could be entitled to an [exemption from paying road tax](#). To be eligible for the exemption the registered keeper of the car will:

- Be the person with a disability, or
- Someone who only uses the vehicle for the purposes of the disabled person



How to apply for an exemption:

New cars

If you have purchased a new car, you should take a certificate of entitlement to DLA, PIP or [Armed Forces Independence Payment \(AFIP\)](#) to the dealership you are purchasing your car from. If you reside in Northern Ireland, you will need to take in an insurance certificate that is valid on the day road tax comes in to force.

Used Cars

When free road tax is first applied for, you should change the tax class of your vehicle at a [post office](#) which deals with vehicle tax. You will also need to take: Registration details/New Keeper Details, Certificate of Entitlement (DLA, PIP & AFIP), Certificate of Insurance & an original MOT certificate.





Renewing Free Tax

You can do this in a few ways, however this can only be done once you're your car's tax class is shown as disabled, once the reminder come through you can renew online here: [Tax your vehicle](#) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), by phone on 0300 123 4321 (this is not available for AFIP), by textphone 0300 790 6201 (for hard of hearing customers only) or you can renew at a post office that deals with vehicle tax.

Vehicle Usage

The car registered for free taxation should be used by the person with disabilities or by someone using the vehicle to help them for example taking the disabled person to doctors appointments.

What to do if the exemption no longer applies

If the car is no longer being used by or for the disabled person or the disabled person's entitlement to free road tax no longer exists, the vehicle must be taxed in the appropriate tax class. This can be done at a post office that deals with vehicle tax.

Blue Badge Scheme

This scheme offers you the opportunity to have access to free parking across the UK and is open for adults and children who suffer from severe mobility issues. With the [Blue Badge](#), you are able to park closer to where you need to be, you can [apply for your Blue Badge here](#).

With a Blue Badge you may also be able to have access to free parking when driving across Europe in EU countries and you can [see where this may be possible here](#).

Toll Concessions

If you suffer from a disability you may be able to apply for discounted rates when passing through tolls during a journey. However, it is advised that you [apply for this exemption](#) prior to your travel.

Help with travel costs in London

Car

If you have a disability and live in London you may be able to apply for discounted rates on congestion charges within the city. It is advised that you [apply to Transport for London \(TFL\)](#) 10 days prior to your journey.



Dial-a-Ride

[This is a service that TFL offer](#) to people who suffer from long-term disabilities, in which you order a journey from your door and are taken to the place you need to go. [You can apply to be a member of the service here.](#)



London Taxicard

[This scheme](#) offers people living in London with serious mobility or visual impairments discounted rates on the journeys in licenced taxis and private hire vehicles in the city. [You can apply to be part of the scheme here.](#)



Freedom Pass

[This is a scheme for elderly and disabled people.](#) The aim of the scheme is to offer free and discounted travel on TFL and National Rail Services, this includes buses, tubes and overground lines. With the pass you can also received discounted fares on [river services](#) and on the [Emirates Air Line](#). You can [apply for the pass here.](#)

Help with travel costs across The UK

Wales

If your primary residence is in Wales and meet the [Government's disability criteria](#), you could be entitled to a [concessionary travel card](#). This card will enable you to have access to free bus travel on most [services across the country](#). You will also have access to free or discounted travel on many [train services in Wales](#).



Scotland

There is a similar card in Scotland called the [National Entitlement Card](#) this will offer you the chance to travel via bus for free across the country. To apply for a card you should contact your [local authority](#). You can apply for a [concessionary card here](#).



Northern Ireland

Similar to the schemes above, there are opportunities to receive [concessionary travel on buses and trains in Northern Ireland](#), the are most commonly know as smart passes. In Northern Ireland, there are also various other schemes that will support your mobility and you can [find out more here](#).



Isle of Wight

If you have a Blue Badge or Disabled Persons Railcard we mentioned earlier, you will be [eligible for a discount on ferry crossing to and from the Isle of Wight](#).