

## USEFUL INFORMATION FACTSHEET

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This factsheet provides a summary of a number of schemes or measures that provide financial assistance to the disabled, some of which are passported from the benefits system. It does not cover every circumstance. The Limbless Association has made every effort to ensure that the information is correct at the time of publication. It is possible that some of the information is over simplified or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the rules or law.

### 2. The Motability Scheme

- 2.1. Motability is an independent charity set up to help people with disabilities improve their mobility by using one of the following qualifying benefits to pay for a lease car, powered wheelchair or mobility scooter:

- Personal Independence Payment (enhanced rate mobility component)
- Disability Living Allowance (higher rate mobility component)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement

- 2.2. Your mobility benefit will be used to fund the lease. The Department for Work and Pensions will send your benefit payment directly to Motability.

- 2.3. Some benefits of the Motability car scheme include:

- A new lease car every three years;
- Insurance cover;
- Servicing and maintenance;
- Full breakdown assistance from RAC;
- 60,000 mileage allowance over three years with a charge of 5p for every additional mile

- 2.4. You can still lease a car even if you do not drive – you simply nominate two drivers who can drive on your behalf. Nominated drivers should normally live within five miles of the disabled customer's address. The car must be used by, or for the benefit of, the disabled person.

- 2.5. Parents or guardians can lease a car on behalf of a child, who is receiving a qualifying benefit.

2.6. Some benefits of the Motability powered wheelchair and scooter scheme include:

- A new scooter or powered wheelchair every three years
- Insurance from RSA Motability
- Breakdown assistance from Motability Assist
- Servicing, maintenance and repairs

2.7. For further information on the Motability Scheme please refer to the website at <http://www.motability.co.uk/>

### **3. Blue Badge Scheme**

3.1. The Blue Badge scheme of parking concessions allows people with severe mobility problems, registered blind people, and those with severe disabilities in both arms to park close to places they wish to visit.

3.2. The blue badge may also be used in other European Union (EU) countries. Each EU country has its own rules on where the badge can be used.

3.3. You may be asked to pay a fee for your Blue Badge of up to £20 depending on which part of the country you live in. The badge does not automatically confer exemption from car park charges.

3.4. Some people can get a Blue Badge automatically. You may fit into this group if one of the following applies to you. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have slightly different rules so you should check with your area for an accurate list of the criteria:

- You receive the Personal Independence Payment mobility component having scored at least 8 points in relation to the 'moving around' activity, or 12 points in the 'planning and following journeys activity';
- You receive the Disability Living Allowance higher rate mobility component;
- You receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement;
- You have been awarded a lump sum benefit from the armed forces compensation scheme (tariffs 1 to 8). You have also been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which means you cannot walk or you find walking very difficult;
- You are registered blind / severely sight impaired;

3.5. If none of the above applies to you, you may still be eligible, subject to further assessment, and may apply for a Blue Badge if you are aged two or over and meet one of the following (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have slightly different rules so check with your area for an accurate list of the criteria):

- You have a permanent and substantial disability, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult;
  - You have severe upper limb disabilities in both arms, drive a motor vehicle regularly and have difficulty using parking meters;
  - As a result of a mental disorder you are unable to follow the route of a familiar journey without the assistance of another person;
  - you are applying on behalf of a child aged under three with a medical condition that requires them to be close to a vehicle for emergency medical treatment or for transporting bulky medical equipment
- 3.6. If you are applying through the 'eligible, subject to further assessment' route, you may be asked to attend a mobility assessment with a medical professional such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.
- 3.7. If you live in England, Scotland or Wales:  
To find out further information for your area please refer to the government website and enter your postcode to find the information from your local authority <https://www.gov.uk/blue-badge-scheme-information-council>
- 3.8. If you live in Northern Ireland Northern Ireland:  
To find out further information please see the government website <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/the-blue-badge-parking-scheme>
- 4. Help with Vehicle Excise Duty**
- 4.1. You can receive an exemption from vehicle excise duty for one car if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:
- Personal Independence Payment (enhanced rate mobility)
  - Disability Living Allowance (higher rate mobility)
  - Armed Forces Independence Payment
  - War Pensioners Mobility Supplement
- 4.2. If you receive the Personal Independence Payment standard rate mobility component, you can receive 50% reduction to your vehicle excise duty.
- 4.3. You can nominate another person's vehicle. In order to qualify the vehicle should be used 'by or for the purposes of' the disabled person.
- 4.4. You will still need to apply for your vehicle excise duty in order to get your exemption / discount. For Motability scheme customers, the process is dealt with by Motability.

## 5. Disabled Persons Railcard

5.1. You can buy a Disabled Person's Railcard, which gives you and a companion one third off the cost of most train journeys. The card costs £20 for one year or £54 for three years.

5.2. You will need to meet one of the following criteria:

- You receive Personal Independence Payment;
- You receive Attendance Allowance;
- You receive Disability Living Allowance (mobility component at either rate, or the care component at the middle or highest rate);
- You receive Severe Disablement Allowance;
- You receive War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement;
- You receive War or Service Disablement Pension for 80% or more disability;
- Are registered as having a visual impairment;
- Are registered as deaf or use a hearing aid;
- Have epilepsy and either have repeated attacks even though you receive drug treatment, or you are currently prohibited from driving because of your epilepsy

5.3. For further information please refer to <http://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk/> or call 0845 605 0525.

## 6. Disabled Facilities Grant

6.1. A disabled facilities grant can help with the cost of adapting a property for the needs of a disabled person.

6.2. Disabled Facilities Grant does not exist in Scotland. Please refer to the Scottish government website for support with equipment and adaptations in Scotland <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Independent-Living/Equipment-Adaptations>

6.3. Some things a Disabled Facilities Grant can be awarded for include:

- Facilitating a disabled occupant's access to and from the dwelling;
- Making the dwelling safe for the disabled occupant and others residing with them;
- Providing suitable bathroom or kitchen facilities

- 6.4. You are treated as disabled if one of the following applies to you:
- You are physically substantially disabled by an illness, injury, impairment present since birth, or otherwise;
  - You are registered (or could be registered) disabled with the social care department;
  - Your sight, hearing or speech is substantially impaired;
  - You have a mental disorder or impairment of any kind
- 6.5. In determining whether the works are necessary and appropriate the housing authority must consult with social care. This is why you may be directed to your local authority's social care department first for an assessment, which is usually carried out by an occupational therapist.
- 6.6. If you are approved for a grant the amount you receive will depend on your income and savings, unless the work is to meet the needs of a disabled person under 16 (or under 19 in some cases)
- 6.7. Once you have applied for a grant, your local authority must tell you about its decision in writing as soon as it can, and no later than six months after you applied.
- 6.8. For those living in England and Wales, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants/overview> for further information.
- 6.9. For those living in Northern Ireland, please refer to <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/home-adaptations-and-equipment-disabled-facilities-grants> for further information.
- 7. VAT relief**
- 7.1. If you are disabled or have a long-term illness, you will not be charged VAT on products designed or adapted for your own personal or domestic use where they are relevant to your disability. You will also not be charged VAT on:
- the installation and any extra work needed as part of this
  - repairs or maintenance
  - spare parts or accessories
- 7.2. The product or service will need to be on a qualifying list, but include items such as adapted motor vehicles, stairlifts and wheelchairs.
- 7.3. To qualify, the law states you must be 'chronically sick or disabled'. Guidance defines this as a person:

- With a physical or mental impairment that has a long term and adverse effect upon their ability to carry out everyday activities;
- With a condition that the medical profession treats as a chronic sickness, such as diabetes;
- Who is terminally ill

7.4. Suppliers must ensure their goods or services qualify for zero rating and that you qualify as a disabled person. When making a purchase that you think might qualify, ask the supplier about zero rating. If the goods or services qualify, the supplier will ask you to make a declaration that you are an eligible disabled person.

7.5. For further information, including more applicable products and services, please refer to the government website <https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief>

## **8. Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card**

8.1. The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card allows a disabled person to obtain one free ticket for the person who is accompanying them to enable them to visit the cinema.

8.2. The card is valid for one year and is available at a £6 charge.

8.3. Currently, people who are aged 8 or over who receive one of the following benefits are eligible:

- Disability Living Allowance
- Attendance Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

8.4. People who are registered blind also qualify for the card

8.5. For further information, including participating cinemas, please refer to the Cinema Exhibitors' Association website <https://www.ceacard.co.uk/index.aspx>

## **9. Radar Key**

9.1. Under the Radar scheme, special locks are installed on public toilets to give disabled people priority access. These toilets can be found in shopping centres, pubs, stores, bus/train stations and other locations nationwide. The provider of the toilet has a key, but with your own key there is no need to wait for a member of staff to unlock the door.

- 9.2. Radar is part of Disability Rights UK who administer and manage the national key scheme. Please see their website for further information  
<https://crm.disabilityrightsuk.org/radar-nks-key>
- 9.3. Members of the Limbless Association receive a Radar key on joining. Membership costs £10 per year and helps us to provide our services to the limb loss community for free. Please contact our office on 0800 644 0185 for further details.