

### Free Travel Pass

Free travel on public transport is available to those aged 66 or over and to certain groups of people under age 66, who are getting specific disability payments. People who are blind and those getting Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Invalidity Pension and people who have been receiving Unemployability Supplement for at least a year are eligible.

Free travel is available on road, rail and DART services operated by Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, the Aran Islands ferry service and on certain private services which have opted into the scheme. Since mid-2003, you can also use your Free Travel Pass on any of the 34 schemes under the Rural Transport Initiative.

### Companion Travel Pass

Certain people, medically assessed as being unfit to travel alone, are eligible to have someone aged 16 or over accompany him/her free of charge. Application forms (FT1) are available from your Social Welfare Office and from the Free Schemes Section of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

### Mobility Allowance

This is a means tested Health Board payment for those aged 16–65 with a severe disability who are unable to walk and who would benefit from a change of surroundings. There are two rates of payment. The higher rate is only paid to people who do not claim the Disabled Drivers and Passengers Tax Relief. Mobility Allowance is not paid for three years from the date of the grant if you are availing of the Motorised Transport Grant.

### Motorised Transport Grant

A means tested Health Board grant paid to those aged 17–65 with a severe disability, towards the purchase/adaptation of a car which is essential to obtain/retain employment. Self employed people may also be eligible. You must be physically and mentally capable of driving and must hold a full driving licence. In certain circumstances someone else may be approved to drive for the person with the disability where he/she is not physically or medically capable of driving. The grant may also be paid to those who are not in employment but are living in a very isolated area. If you avail of the grant you will not be eligible for Mobility Allowance for three years from the date of the grant. Apply to your local Health Board.

### Disabled Drivers and Passengers Tax Relief

Drivers or passengers with physical disabilities (in receipt of a Primary Medical Certificate from the Health Board) who use a specially adapted motor vehicle are entitled to claim exemption from Vehicle Registration Tax and Value Added Tax on their vehicles, repayment of duty on fuel and exemption from annual road tax. Application forms (DD1) are available from:

Disabled Drivers Section, Central Repayments Office,  
Revenue Commissioners, Coolshannagh, Co. Monaghan.

Tel: LoCall 1890 606 061.

### Adaptations and Driving

The Irish Wheelchair Association and the Disabled Drivers' Association of Ireland provide advice on suitable car adaptations to meet individual needs. They run driving schools for people with disabilities and can provide information and advice on all aspects of motoring.

# TRANSPORT

## Disabled Person's Parking Card

Available to drivers or passengers with disabilities (aged 5 or over), for use in any car in which they travel. It allows them to park in designated areas and also allows them to park at parking meters and in disc parking areas free of charge. Application forms are available from the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland and from the Irish Wheelchair Association.

## Trains

Iarnród Eireann produces a guide for rail travellers, including DART users, entitled 'Guide for Mobility Impaired Passengers'. It is available free of charge in all stations. It offers advice and also provides information on the facilities available at each station.

## Accessibility of Public Transport

Measures to ensure accessibility of public transport are likely to be contained in new disability legislation to be published in 2003. (The Disabilities Bill, 2001, which was withdrawn, contained such measures).

## Dial-a-Ride

Vantastic Dial-a-Ride, Centre for Independent Living, provides a transport service for people with disabilities in Dublin and in a number of other areas around the country. To find out what service is available outside Dublin contact your local Centre for Independent Living.

## For the greater Dublin area contact:

Vantastic Dial-a-Ride, Unit 127 Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Baldoyle, Dublin 13. Tel: (01) 839 2447.

## Contacts and Further Information

**Disabled Drivers Section,**  
Central Repayments Office,  
Office of the Revenue  
Commissioners,  
Coolshannagh,  
Co. Monaghan.

Tel: (047) 82800,  
LoCall 1890 606 061

**Disabled Drivers Association  
of Ireland,**  
Ballindine,  
Co. Mayo.

Tel: (094) 936 4054/4266

**Irish Wheelchair Association,**  
National Mobility Centre,  
Ballinagappa Road, Clane,  
Co. Kildare.

Tel: 045 893 094.

## Free Schemes (Free Travel)

Pension Services Office  
College Road, Sligo.

Tel: (01) 704 3000,  
or (071) 916 9800

LoCall: 1890 500 000

## Citizens Information Centres (CIC)

For further information on rights and entitlements, contact your local Citizens Information Centre - listed in the Golden Pages