

## **Additional benefits, discounts and offers**

This information is intended for people diagnosed with Mesothelioma who are receiving a disability benefits and/or have a Blue Badge. If you have not yet had welfare benefits advice, please contact Sarah Thomas on 0191 933 1964 or email [sarah.thomas@newcastlecab.org.uk](mailto:sarah.thomas@newcastlecab.org.uk)

There are many additional benefits, exemptions, concessions and discounts available to people with a disability or long-term illness, including Mesothelioma.

Most of the benefits and exemptions have a clear eligibility criteria and you will need to be receiving certain disability benefits or be a Blue Badge holder in order to qualify.

Some discounts and concessions will specify that you need to be “registered disabled” without making it clear what this means. Currently there is no national register of disabled people. A copy of your DWP benefit award letter is usually accepted as proof of disability, if you are asked to provide some, or you could show your Blue Badge or Disabled Person’s Bus Pass, if you have one.

The eligibility criteria shown in this leaflet is not comprehensive and has been edited for relevance to people diagnosed with Mesothelioma.

Scheme conditions and availability can change without prior notice.

Information correct June 2021.

## **Travel & Transport - National**

### **Vehicle Tax Exemption**

**Eligible benefits:** Personal Independence Payment, *enhanced rate mobility*  
Disability Living Allowance, *higher rate mobility*

If you are eligible you can apply for an exemption from paying vehicle tax. The vehicle must be registered in the disabled person's name or their nominated driver's name. It must only be used for the disabled person's needs. It cannot be used by the nominated driver for their own personal use.

You can claim the exemption when you apply for vehicle tax.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search: *Tax your vehicle*

### **Vehicle Tax Reduction**

**Eligible benefits:** Personal Independence Payment, *standard rate mobility*

If you are eligible you can get a 50% reduction in vehicle tax. The vehicle should be registered in the disabled person's name or their nominated driver's name.

You can claim the reduction by making an application to the DVLA.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search: *Financial help if you are disabled*

### **Motability Scheme**

**Eligible benefits:** Personal Independence Payment, *enhanced rate mobility*  
Disability Living Allowance, *higher rate mobility*

If you are eligible the Motability Scheme can help you to lease a car, powered wheelchair, or scooter.

The mobility part of your disability benefit would go directly to the Motability Scheme each month to pay for your lease. How much of your benefit will go towards your vehicle depends on which one you choose. A vehicle can be leased for three years and includes insurance, breakdown assistance, servicing and repairs.

For an information pack please call 0300 456 4566 or visit [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

## Disabled Persons Railcard

**Eligible benefits:** Attendance Allowance, *any rate*  
Personal Independence Payment, *any rate*  
Disability Living Allowance, *any rate mobility, middle/higher rate care*

If you are eligible you can get a third off adult rail fares on the National Rail network in Great Britain. If you are travelling with another adult they will also get a third off their rail fare.

A one-year railcard costs £20 and a three-year railcard costs £54.

You can apply online at [www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk](http://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk) or call 0345 605 0525

## Disabled Person's Bus Pass

If you are over State Pension age in England you automatically qualify for a free bus pass. If you are under State Pension age you can apply for a Disabled Person's Bus Pass.

Each local council has the power to set their own eligibility criteria for a Disabled Person's Bus Pass but, for guidance, if you receive Personal Independence Payment (*enhanced rate mobility*) or Disability Living Allowance (*higher rate mobility*) you will have good grounds for an application.

You can apply via your local council or visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search: *Apply for a disabled person's bus pass*

## Tolls and Congestions Charges

Toll and congestion charge concessions are available throughout the UK but in some cases you must apply in advance. A full list is available at [www.gov.uk/toll-concessions](http://www.gov.uk/toll-concessions)

## **Travel & Transport - Local**

### **Tyne Tunnel Toll Exemption**

**Eligibility criteria:** Blue Badge holder  
Vehicle Tax Exempt on disability grounds

If you are eligible you can apply for a 12 month permit to use the Tyne Tunnel free of charge. If you don't have a permit and you need to use the Tyne Tunnel, please press the assistance button at the toll booth and tell them you have a Blue Badge and they should waive you through.

You can apply for a permit online at [www.tt2.co.uk/tolls/toll-exemption-accounts/](http://www.tt2.co.uk/tolls/toll-exemption-accounts/) or call 0191 262 4451

### **Tyne & Wear TaxiCard**

**Eligible benefits:** Attendance Allowance, *higher rate*  
Disability Living Allowance, *higher rate mobility*  
Personal Independence Payment, *decision letter must show a minimum of 8 points scored under the "Moving around" component*

If you are eligible for the scheme, you will receive a card credited with an annual amount of £225 towards taxi fares to use with approved taxi companies. The journey must start and/or finish in Tyne and Wear but there are no other restrictions on when and how you use the card.

TaxiCard is an annual scheme and there are only two opportunities to join each year, usually in February and August.

To request an application form visit [www.nexus.org.uk/taxicard](http://www.nexus.org.uk/taxicard) or call 0191 20 20 747

### **Metro Gold Card**

If you have a Disabled Persons Bus Pass or a standard Concessionary Travel Pass, you can buy a Metro Gold Card which gives you a year's travel on the Tyne & Wear Metro, Shields Ferry and Northern Rail services between Newcastle and Sunderland for a small one-off charge.

If you live in Tyne & Wear the Gold Card costs £12 per year and, if you live outside of Tyne & Wear, it costs £24 per year. You can purchase the Metro Gold Card at any Metro station ticket machine.

More information is available at [www.nexus.org.uk/metro-gold-card](http://www.nexus.org.uk/metro-gold-card)

## **Home & Housing**

### **Aids & Adaptations**

You may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant from your local council if you need to make significant changes to your home, for example, installing a stairlift or a downstairs bathroom, due to your disability or long-term illness.

How much help you can get depends on your household income and any savings you may have. The maximum grant available in England is £30,000.

You must either own your property or be the tenant and intend to live in the property during the grant period.

You can apply via your local council. Priority status should be given to applicants with Mesothelioma, therefore please make the council aware of your diagnosis when you apply.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants)

If you require smaller aids and equipment such as grab rails or bath boards you do not usually need to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant, instead please contact the Adult Social Care department of your local council and request a care and support assessment. Many of these smaller aids are loaned free of charge.

### **VAT Free Goods & Services**

If you decide to purchase aids and adaptations or hire tradespeople yourself, you should not be charged VAT on specialised goods and services if they are needed because of your disability or long-term illness.

These goods and services are often referred to as zero-rated, VAT free or eligible for VAT relief. You should also not be charged VAT on the installation, repairs or maintenance of the goods or services.

Suppliers and tradespeople that specialise in products and services for people with long-term illnesses or disabilities will generally offer their products and services VAT free as standard however non-specialised suppliers and tradespeople usually will not, so it is recommended that you clarify whether goods or services are VAT free before committing to the purchase.

Your supplier or tradesperson may ask you to sign a declaration that you meet the conditions to get the goods or services VAT free. If you think you have been incorrectly charged VAT you should ask your supplier or tradesperson for a refund. HMRC cannot directly refund VAT to you.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-relief-on-certain-goods-if-you-have-a-disability](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-relief-on-certain-goods-if-you-have-a-disability)