

Supporting disabled people to access the Motability Scheme



A guide to the Motability Scheme
and the Motability Foundation

[motabilityfoundation.org.uk](https://www.motabilityfoundation.org.uk)



**Motability
Foundation**

Making all journeys accessible



What is the Motability Scheme?

The Motability Scheme has a range of options to help you get out and about, making it easier to do the things you need and want to do.

You can discover more independence by exchanging your qualifying mobility allowance to lease a brand-new car, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV), scooter, or powered wheelchair through the Motability Scheme. Over 650,000 people in the UK enjoy the freedom the Scheme offers. Whatever your needs, the Motability Scheme can help you get more independence.

“I love socialising, getting out and about and meeting friends for coffee. Having my own vehicle is a lifeline.”

Tina





Who can join the Motability Scheme?

“My car has given me new independence and freedom to move easier.”

Allison



The Motability Scheme is available to people who receive one of the following allowances, with at least 12 months remaining:



Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)



Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)



War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS)



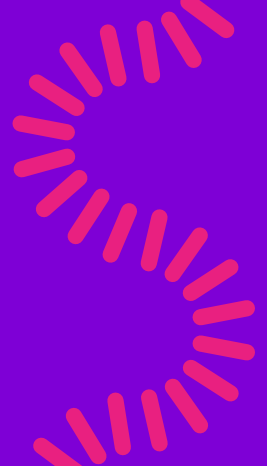
Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

More information about DLA and PIP can be found at:

[gov.uk/pip](https://www.gov.uk/pip)



How does the Motability Scheme work?



With the Motability Scheme, all or part of your client's mobility allowance is transferred to Motability Operations Ltd for the duration of the lease period.

If your client decides that the Motability Scheme is right for them, there are a few steps they need to take in order to lease a new car, scooter or powered wheelchair.

The vehicle must be used by, or for the benefit of, the disabled person.

1. Choose a vehicle

Test drive it and consider if adaptations are needed.

2. Search for dealers

There are over 4,500 Motability Scheme dealerships in the UK.

3. Order the vehicle

The Motability Scheme Specialist at the dealership will assist with each order.

“The Motability Scheme enables me to work, to contribute to and feel part of society and to live a fulfilling life.”

Nazmin





Cars on the Motability Scheme

A car can be leased for three years on the Motability Scheme.

What's included?





The lease of a new vehicle with:

-  Insurance for up to three named drivers
-  Servicing and maintenance
-  Full breakdown assistance
-  20,000 mileage allowance per year of lease
-  Window and windscreen repair or replacement
-  Many adaptations at no extra cost
-  Replacement tyres

Some cars are available at less or no more than the cost of the weekly allowance, while more expensive cars require an additional payment (known as an Advance Payment) to cover the cost of the lease.

Types of car

There are in the region of 1,600 cars to choose from, including hundreds of automatics, from all the major manufacturers. Cars are available in various size categories including:

-  Small
-  Medium
-  Estate
-  Multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs)

There is also a choice of:

-  Sports utility vehicles (SUVs)
-  Coupes
-  Roadsters
-  Cabriolets





Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles on the Motability Scheme

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) can be leased for five years.

WAVs enable the disabled person to travel as a passenger whilst seated in their wheelchair.

Drive-from-wheelchair vehicles are also available and enable the disabled person to drive without needing to transfer to a seat.

What's included?

The lease of a new vehicle with:

-  Insurance for up to three named drivers
-  Servicing and maintenance
-  Full breakdown assistance
-  20,000 mileage allowance per year of lease
-  Window and windscreen repair or replacement
-  Many adaptations at no extra cost
-  Replacement tyres



20,000 mileage allowance per year of lease



Is a WAV right for your client?

A WAV may be best if your client:



Can no longer transfer from their wheelchair to a standard car seat



Has a carer who is no longer able to lift them

There are currently over 28,000 WAV customers on the Motability Scheme, supplied by a range of vehicle conversion specialists. Any of these vehicle conversion specialists can offer a no-obligation WAV demonstration, for free, at your client's home. We would always recommend this to help identify the vehicle that is best for the client and their needs.

How is a WAV built?

All WAVs start as a standard vehicle before a specialist engineering company makes a number of alterations to allow wheelchair access. The disabled person can remain in their wheelchair during travel.

The size, shape, and design of the WAV will vary depending on the original vehicle used for the conversion and the specialist company that has converted it.

If your client has specific requirements for the seating layout, vehicle options or adaptations, they can discuss this with the conversion company directly, who will be able to give their professional advice.



Car Adaptations

Adaptations are available through the Motability Scheme to help make travelling as comfortable and safe as possible.

“Getting my Motability Scheme car was so straightforward, the garage even sorted out the fitting of my hand controls.”

Jason

Adaptations are available to help with:

Vehicle Access

To help get in and out of a car, for example, swivel seats and transfer plates.



Equipment Loading

To help load and store equipment without needing to manually lift it, for example, boot hoists.



Driving

Including steering, braking and acceleration; for example, steering aids, hand controls and left foot accelerators.





Things to bear in mind



Not all adaptations are suitable for every type of car. Given this, it is important for your client to consider the adaptations they need before they choose their car.



Adaptation installers are the best people to give advice on which adaptations might best suit your client's needs.



If your client needs more complex adaptations for driving, they may benefit from a driving assessment. You can find out more about assessments on page 12.

Delivery

Cars ordered at the same time as adaptations will be delivered with these fitted.

How to order adaptations

This can be done directly with the car dealership, who will arrange for a local adaptation installer to fit the adaptations.

The easiest and most cost effective way for your client to arrange for adaptations on a Motability Scheme car, is to order them at the same time as ordering the vehicle.

Choice of installers available

If your client has already contacted an adaptation installer for advice, they can choose this company for the fitting when ordering their car.



Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs on the Motability Scheme

“I can put my wheelchair in the boot and go for a ride whenever I want to – on my own, or with the family. We can enjoy quality time together.”





Aaron



A scooter or powered wheelchair can be leased for three years; some powered wheelchairs can be leased for five years.

What's included?

The lease of a new scooter or powered wheelchair with:

-  Insurance
-  Breakdown assistance
-  Servicing, maintenance and repairs
-  Tyre and battery replacement



What's right for your client?

A car can be leased for three years on the Motability Scheme.

Scooters

A scooter may be best if your client:

- Has reasonable sitting balance
- Can transfer from a sitting to standing position independently
- Can drive the scooter without needing any help
- Has sufficient shoulder and arm strength and movement to operate a handle bar style control
- Has sufficient vision, perception and hearing to operate

Powered Wheelchairs

A powered wheelchair may be best if your client:

- Does not feel confident getting on and off seats
- Cannot safely use a handle bar style control unit
- Needs dual controls (where someone else helps to control the powered wheelchair)
- Can only operate a joystick control



Assessments

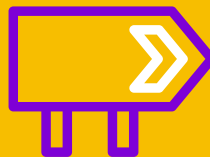
If your client has never driven with an adaptation before or they have had a change in their mobility, they may need to speak to a mobility expert for driving or adaptation advice.

The quickest way to get adaptations advice is to contact a Motability Scheme adaptation installer. However, if your client is still unsure what they need, they want to test if an adaptation is right for them or they need a more complex solution, they can contact Driving Mobility.

Driving Mobility has 16 independent assessment centres across the UK. They can make suggestions on driving adaptations, seating options and products to help with getting in and out of vehicles. They are able to assess physical and cognitive ability, determine if a medical condition is impacting on a client's ability to drive safely and recommend appropriate adaptations.



You can find
out more about
assessments at:
drivingmobility.org.uk





Meet Joanne

Joanne, 46, lives in Bournemouth with her husband, Ian, and two children. Joanne received a grant for the Advance Payment towards her Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).

“Ian is my full-time carer so we share every day together. I am at home a lot of the time due to physical and medical limitations, but when we can get out, the car is worth its weight in gold. Having it means we can come and go at our own pace and I have a safe sanctuary inside the car if everything gets overwhelming or I have a seizure.”

Before joining the Motability Scheme, Joanne and Ian were unable to travel as a couple, and Joanne rarely left their home. “Having my vehicle means I am no longer a prisoner in my own home.

We couldn't use a standard car as I have a large powered wheelchair so I was restricted to a mile radius from my front door. Since having my WAV I feel like I have complete freedom to do what I like, when I like, when my body allows. I feel included in day-to-day things, something as simple as food shopping. It also makes doctors' and hospital appointments more tolerable, and I no longer have to rely on NHS transport.

“I like being out with Ian and feeling like a normal couple, doing normal things. I believe that means a lot to most disabled people – just feeling included. One of the things that meant the most to me was being able to go to the Lake District with Ian. I was able to support him in the Lakesman, a triathlon held in Keswick. He had to swim 1.2 miles, cycle 56 miles and then run a half marathon. I was able to be there and support him all the way. I also had the opportunity to climb The Fells in an off-road wheelchair. This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience which the Motability Foundation made possible, and I can't thank them enough. We are looking forward to more adventures together.”



Charitable Grants

We have developed a number of grant programmes to enable us to work towards our vision:

‘That no disabled person shall be disadvantaged due to poor access to transportation.’

The Motability Foundation aims to support as many disabled people as possible to achieve the right mobility solution. In 2021/22, we provided grants to more than 17,500 people, worth more than £53m.

Support through a charitable grant from the Motability Foundation can mean a world of difference to our beneficiaries and their families, to be able to enjoy the freedom and independence that so many of us take for granted.

The Motability Foundation can provide grants towards:

Vehicle adaptations

We aim to ensure that travelling or driving is as comfortable and safe as possible.

Vehicle Advance Payments

An Advance Payment is a one-off payment that covers the difference between the higher rate mobility allowance and the total cost of the lease.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs)

A specially adapted vehicle which can allow a disabled person to travel while remaining in their wheelchair.

Driving lessons

We aim to help disabled people gain access to driving tuition, both in standard production and adapted vehicles.

Stopped Allowance Support

We aim to assist people with disabilities who lose their eligibility to remain on the Motability Scheme when they are reassessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).



Meet Danielle

Danielle and her two children have Spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita. She learned to drive through Motability Foundation's Driving Lessons Grant Programme.

Before joining the Motability Scheme we didn't travel unless it was for essential things such as hospital appointments, and for this we relied on taxis. We were mainly housebound when it came to social activities. With my children and I having the same medical condition, using public transport was extremely difficult.

Having a car and learning to drive has completely changed both mine and my children's lives. We are now able to enjoy days out and are a lot more independent. We no longer have to rely on other people for appointments, and we can visit friends and family and enjoy a social life, which was near impossible before. It has given me so much freedom – it is unbelievable. I honestly don't know how we managed before.

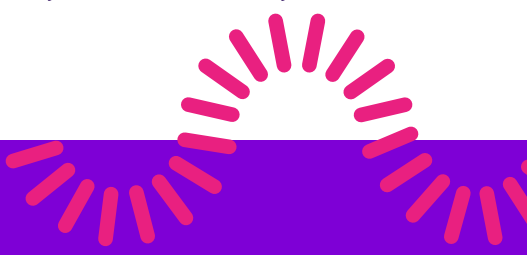
Without Motability Foundation providing funding for me to learn to drive, and giving me the support to do so, I don't think I would have ever learned to drive.

Me and my two children would still be stuck in the house. Now we can simply pop out in the car without having to plan too much. We have the freedom to go where we like and enjoy life.

Both me and my children have a lot of weekly hospital appointments, which I used to dread simply because of transport. Being able to drive myself has built my confidence and made me realise we can be a happy, independent little family, thanks to Motability Foundation.

Find out more:

[motabilityfoundation.org.uk/grants](https://www.motabilityfoundation.org.uk/grants)



“Since my Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle I feel like I have complete freedom to do what I like, when I like.”

Joanne

To find out more
information about the
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the Motability Foundation

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