



Media Fact Sheet:

Motability Foundation, the Motability Scheme, the Department for work and Pensions and Motability Operations

Motability Foundation

The Motability Foundation fund, support, research and innovate so that disabled people can make the journeys they choose. We oversee the Motability Scheme and provide grants to help people use the Scheme, providing access to transport to hundreds of thousands of people a year.

We provide grants to charities and organisations who provide different types of transport, or who work towards making transport accessible. We also carry out ongoing research, in partnership with disabled people and key stakeholders in the industry, to inspire innovations that continue to champion accessible transport.

How we do this:

- We help people access the Motability Scheme. We provide grants covering the cost of leasing the right car or wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- We support people to find the right adaptations so that they can use their car more easily and provide grants to cover the costs. Grant applications are means-tested to make sure we give funding to those most in need of support.
- We work with other organisations to improve accessible travel, today and in the future.
- We help fund charities and organisations who give disabled people everyday transport options, from community buses to wheelchairs.
- We provide research grants to organisations like the National Centre for Accessible Transport - to better understand the ways transport accessibility needs to change.
- We undertake research and work with disability experts, partners and policy makers, to continue exploring and developing ways to make all transport accessible. Such as making sure all electric vehicle charging points meet the needs of disabled people.
- We work alongside disabled people to make sure that their knowledge and experience shapes the work of the Motability Foundation.

About the Motability Scheme

The Motability Scheme is the main way in which we provide access to transport for disabled people. The Scheme offers an affordable way for disabled people to lease a new vehicle, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV), scooter or powered wheelchair. Anyone who receives qualifying higher rate mobility allowances from the

Government can join the Scheme, using their allowance to pay for the lease of the vehicle.

We continue to make sure that the Motability Scheme is the best it can be. We oversee Motability Operations to deliver the Scheme and make sure that the Scheme gives disabled people the best choice, value for money and customer service possible – and to make sure it is sustainable for generations to come.

There are currently 860,000 customers on the Motability Scheme across the United Kingdom. Motability Scheme vehicle leases cost on average 45 per cent less than similar deals from other major leasing companies.

How the Motability Scheme works with the Department for Work and Pensions

Motability Foundation works closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on issues related to the Motability Scheme. The DWP facilitates the direct transfer of benefits to Motability Operations on behalf of disabled people who receive a qualifying benefit and choose to use the Motability Scheme.

Motability Foundation, Motability Operations and the Motability Scheme are not public bodies and are independent of Government and receive no Government funding, nor do they have any influence or provide any direction on how benefits are assessed or awarded. On 3 March 2025, Sir Stephen Timms, Minister of State for Social Security and Disability at the DWP confirmed this in Parliament saying “The Motability Foundation charity, which is independent of government, oversees Motability Operations in its delivery of the Motability Scheme. The Motability Scheme does not receive any direct funding from the Department for Work and Pensions.

About Motability Operations

The Motability Scheme is delivered by a separate company, Motability Operations Ltd. Motability Operations is contracted exclusively to the Motability Foundation. Every year, Motability Operations aims to make a modest return, so that they can reliably borrow money, buy vehicles and remain affordable to Motability Foundation’s beneficiaries. Motability Operations do not pay dividends to shareholders. Any surplus income is used to improve the Motability Scheme and secure its long-term future, or it is donated to the Motability Foundation.

Due to a challenging operating environment, including the reduced value of second-hand vehicles and the volatility of the automotive and insurance markets, Motability Operations were not able to make a donation in 2024 and have not been able to make a donation to us this year and further donations in the near future are also unlikely.

Contact information:

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Motability is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (no: 299745) and in Scotland (no: SC050642), incorporated by Royal Charter. Motability is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Reference number 736309) as a credit broker. Motability operating as Motability Foundation.