

# TACSAÍ

IRELAND'S ONLY FREE INDEPENDENT TACSAÍ MAGAZINE FOR DRIVERS & INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

**REVIEW: ŠKODA ELROQ**  
**- SEE P42**

**NOW ONLINE**

[www.tacsaimagazine.com](http://www.tacsaimagazine.com)



## NEXUS LEGAL

WE WORK WITH TAXI COMPANIES & DRIVERS  
Fast-tracking Your accident Claims &  
Protecting Your No Claims Bonus



HAD AN ACCIDENT? NEED HELP? CALL:

**NEXUS LEGAL**  
**087 2908661**  
[www.nexuslegal.ie](http://www.nexuslegal.ie)



SCAN ME FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

FREENOW ✓

## NEW: FREENOW MARKETPLACE



Looking to rent a new taxi? Or got one you want to rent out?  
Do both in one place with the FREENOW Marketplace.

GET STARTED

Visit [www.free-now.com/ie/taxi-marketplace](http://www.free-now.com/ie/taxi-marketplace)

**TaxiFair Insurance are visiting  
a city near you in 2024**



See back page or visit [www.taxifair.ie](http://www.taxifair.ie)  
for full details.

  
**taxifair**  
INSURANCE

# No two fares are ever the same !



Isn't every day the same? You just drive a passenger from A to B, collect their money (or push a button to take their money these days) and head off to the next job. It's a common misconception, because as a taxi driver, you know that no two fares are ever the same.

There's the dash from town through rush hour traffic where you're pressured to go faster than you should, so they can make their flight. There's the 400 meter fare which barely seems worthwhile but for the fact that the passenger has their best high heels on. Or, the Saturday night 4am fare where you're nervous whether an intoxicated passenger may need to pull over at any time to avoid soiling your vehicle! Then you have the chatty customer, the customer with their headphones in, the silent customer and the loud customer who is mid-zoom call entering the car and barely able to tell you where they want to go. As we said at the start, no two fares are

ever the same.

The same goes for insurance. Just like you've seen all possible fares inside your vehicle at different times, we've seen all possible circumstances for customers seeking SPSV/Taxi insurance. That's because SPSV insurance is, quite simply, all that we do.

We pride ourselves on our different approach. You want to work. You need insurance to work. Our job is therefore to be an enabler. Understand your circumstances, whatever they may be, and give you that opportunity to work. At TaxiFair, we don't believe in that most frustrating approach of 'computer says no'.

Whilst we embrace technology with a system built solely for us to administer taxi insurance, we still actively engage in traditional insurance broking. Speaking to insurers, pitching customers cases to underwriters to ensure we can achieve the best possible solution for you.

## So, what do different fares look like to us, from an insurance standpoint?

**Owner drivers:** whether you own your own taxi or are investing in a new wheelchair accessible taxi, we are here to help you.

**Rental risks:** insurance to protect both the vehicle/plate owner and the driver. Driving is typically restricted to the rental driver only and priced on the drivers details.

**Multi-driver risks:** more than 1 driver working a vehicle? No problem. Whether it's a husband and wife or a local service with drivers working different shifts, cover can be arranged.

**Multi-plate owner policies:** Own more than 1 taxi plate or vehicle? We can cover you also. Generally restricted to 1 driver per policy, we are able to try and leverage the buying power of multiple policies with insurers to your benefit.

**New entrants:** Another area we can help with. In recent months we've covered a range of drivers here in different circumstances at very different prices – from a 21 year old with little experience, to a 60 year old finishing up driving with Dublin Bus.

**Electric vehicles:** Many drivers are availing of the EV grant and we have comprehensive and competitively priced products to cover these vehicles.

**What else?** Whilst the above list may seem exhaustive, it's not. We haven't mentioned Local Area Hackneys, School Transport Vehicles and even Declined Cases Agreement (DCA) policies – yes, we can even help you through the DCA process, if required.



**That's who we serve.** Yet, its only half the story. We do it with our above mentioned custom built system. We do it with multiple insurers to foster competition and innovation. We do it by talking to new insurers considering entering the market. We do it by issuing insurance certificates and discs from our office. We do it by delivering documents swiftly and electronically to turn off frequent reminders from the mobile apps (not mentioning any names, Uber). We do it by facilitating out of hours vehicle change request to enable you to keep working when you have a problem. And, we do it with empathy at all times to help you.

So, just like working in a taxi, when purchasing taxi insurance you simply have to know that no two fares are the same. Next time you need help, make sure you choose the right fare. **Choose TaxiFair.**

**Tel: 01 485 1996 Email: [help@taxifair.ie](mailto:help@taxifair.ie)**  
**TaxiFair Insurances Limited T/A TaxiFair Insurances is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.**

Visit: **[TaxiFair.ie](https://www.taxifair.ie)**



# EDITOR LETTER

**T**hank you for picking up the latest edition of Tacsai magazine.

It has been an interesting two months since our last edition; from alleged cartels operating at certain ranks throughout Dublin, to taxi drivers allegedly injuring clammers, to coalitions forming to agitate for reform, and all points in between. We hope you enjoy reading.

A Dublin driver has informed Tacsai magazine that drivers who, it seems once operated on behalf of the now defunct Mill Cabs in Clondalkin are refusing to allow other drivers to pick up fares outside the Mill shopping centre saying; "Mill cabs only", despite the fact that Lynk acquired Mill Cabs some time ago. See inside for the shopping centre's response, along with several other areas where similar things are happening.

Meanwhile; over by the airport an altercation involving a taxi driver and a clamper in the McDonald's car park resulted in a dislocated shoulder for the latter. Representing himself; the driver refused to acknowledge the jury's guilty verdict, alleging body and dash cam tampering. He has vowed that; "The truth will come out." The clamper has understandably left the profession.

Over on the business side of things, a coalition of businesses groups seeking reform of the taxi industry is proposing a series of recommendations to the National Transport Authority (NTA) aimed at alleviating the current shortage of taxis. The Taxis for Ireland Coalition has, among other recommendations; requested that a specific strategy be developed for the Small Public Service Vehicle (SPSV) sector.

We at Tacsai magazine would like to thank all of our contributors, advertising partners and especially taxi drivers for their support this year. This publication would not exist without you. We wish you a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely

**The Taxi Magazine Team**

**READ US ONLINE**  
[www.tacsaimagazine.com](http://www.tacsaimagazine.com)



**GOT A STORY?  
GET IN TOUCH  
WITH RONAN  
CALL: 085 199 8321**



#### TACSAI MAGAZINE

All correspondence should be addressed to:  
Tacsai Magazine, 4 Castleknock Mews, Old Navan Road,  
Castleknock, Dublin 15  
Creative Top Publishing Ltd. publishes Tacsai Magazine.  
Company registration No. 534480

No part of Tacsai Magazine may be reproduced without the  
prior consent of the publisher.

#### Disclaimer

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of  
the publisher.

#### Designer: Patrick Browne Design

Tel: 086 831 9322  
Email: [hello@patrickbrowndesign.com](mailto:hello@patrickbrowndesign.com)

**Tacsai Magazine** is stocked in each taxi firm in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick. Most ranks have "Rank Reps" who have a stock of magazines. Additionally, the magazine is available in the following locations:

01. Skan Taxi centre, Tolka Valley Business Park.
02. Emo Station (Mount Brown), Kilmainham.
03. Discount Till Rolls
04. TTnH Offices, Santry Hall Ind. Est.
05. Fonthill Motor Factors.
06. Harbour Radiators.
07. The Kesh at Dublin Airport.
08. Fonthill Autoparts.
09. Hailo, 12 Upper Mount Street.
10. Dublin Corporate Cabs, Ballymount Ind Est.
11. Phoenix Motors, Prussia Street.
12. South Dublin Autos.
13. Ozone Cabs
14. Go Service Station, Kylemore Road.
15. Excel Auto Parts, Old Naas Road

SKODA

BE MORE  
ELROQ



Fully electric with more  
than **560KM RANGE**

Available to order now.

[skoda.ie](https://www.skoda.ie)



# HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Tony Rose, Chairperson of the National Transport Assembly Committee (NTAC) and Spokesperson on Taxis is urging all drivers nationwide to get out and vote in this upcoming election with a view to putting the state of the industry at the forefront among many issues like the perceived excess of foreign nationals arriving on our shores.

**T**he 2024 Irish general election to elect the 34th Dáil is due to be held on Friday, November 29, 2024, following the dissolution of the 33rd Dáil on November 8 by President Michael D. Higgins at the request of Taoiseach Simon Harris. It will elect 174 Teachtaí Dála (TDs) across 43 constituencies of between three and five seats to Dáil Éireann, the lower house of the Oireachtas, Ireland's legislature. Under the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2023, the number of TDs was increased from 160, with an increase in the number of constituencies from 39 to 43. This will be the largest Dáil in the history of the state.

Speaking to Tacsai magazine, Roe said:

"I have been approached to run in government by a major part in my local area. This shows that politicians are ready to cash in on people in the local media. I was recently on a radio station highlighting taxi drivers' Needs' and highlighting who was responsible for the desperate treatment of taxi drivers and other public service vehicle operators. There was also bus drivers assaulted as well. I was highlighting assaults over card machines; which Tacsai magazine has been instrumental in highlighting since its inception. I highlighted these assaults on taxi drivers which occur over card machines; mainly at night and continues to happen. Now that the court cases are getting nearer, a lot of the politicians seem to be running; and if you look at the number of them retreating out of various parties. But this is no consolation to the three female taxi drivers that were attacked. I was asking them (those running for office), to show some compassion, and asked what they plan to do for the little bos, the little girls, the dependents of

these drivers. It is my opinion that taxi drivers could decide this next government. Taxi drivers are the largest working group as a whole in Ireland. If you think of Dublin alone; Dublin could have over 18,000 taxis in it and if include their extended families, it's astronomical. Think of their wives, husbands, children, parents and families. They could well and truly decide the next administration and government."

Roe went on to praise the work of taxi driver and former TD Kevin Moran. Moran (born 12 May 1963) is an Irish independent politician who has served as a Minister of State from 2017 to 2020. He served as a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Longford–Westmeath constituency from 2016 to 2020.

"Now we have to look at what has happened in the past, when taxi drivers decided to vote for a taxi driver; namely Kevin Moran. He is a credit to the transport industry, he did a marvellous job and he deserves to be supported. I don't know whether he will run again, but we would ask people to support him if he decides to run again. Another group around the Crumlin area led by Tommy Barton who has to be credited for his great work canvassing, leaflet distribution and relentlessly working and helping Cllr Phil Sutcliffe who got elected during the last local elections. It fantastic to see taxi drivers showing so much interest, because it's badly needed for change in Ireland. With all that taxi drivers have to put up with while they're fighting to sustain their families, educating their children, paying mortgages, and I don't see one of the politicians helping any of the taxi drivers that we (NTAC) have been highlighting, that Tacsai magazine has been highlighting. People can't hide their heads in the sand and say they didn't see it, its been highlighting in Tacsai



FEEL FREENOW **FEEL FREENOW** FEEL FREENOW

FREENOW ✓



# JOIN OUR AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

**BOOST EVERY TRIP**

**BOOST YOUR  
LOYALTY  
STATUS**

**BOOST  
YOUR  
OFFERS**

**BOOST  
YOUR  
EARNINGS**

## HOW TO JOIN?

### BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

Call us or ask a staff member at the driver centre to book you in.

### WALK-IN ON BRANDING DAYS

Contact our driver team for details.

**CALL  
016971297**

magazine endlessly and perpetually, and yet we haven't heard anything in the last four years," said Roe.

He went on to say that it is time to wake up and get 'some of our own' involved in the political sphere in this country.

"It's taxi drivers chance now to elect some of our own or at least someone who is going to listen and help drivers in our hour of need. Just think of all the taxi drivers you know and what they have to endure. I have highlighted recently taxi driver assaults, some of whom were left for dead. I'm not being sensational. I have been on to these people myself we have names, we have addresses, they are all willing to come forward. We didn't receive help from one politician when these taxi drivers were threatened. All we are looking for here is equality for taxi drivers. I know one driver who was viciously and savagely assaulted. He needed surgery as a result, he couldn't receive the surgery here, but had to go to Belfast and had to fork out £40, 000 for treatment in the North. This is absolutely scandalous. Politicians need to wake up," said Roe.

He went on to say that he wants all of the taxi drivers in the country to realise that they have a say in this.

"We want to see a different approach to party politics here, because we are itemising this too much. We are seeing this too many times. It's in the media, I've been on umpteen radio stations highlighting it. It's disingenuous of politicians to come around now after ignoring us, treating

us as a subculture, overlooking us, subduing us. Again, we get treated as a subculture and this is leading absolutely nowhere. So, we would like to see some input here. We want a resolution to this and we want politicians to listen to us and show us that they're not out of touch, because it's unsustainable here. It seems to be a natural security failure that they are responsible for. There is a lot of pressure put on public servants; make no mistake; a taxi driver is a public service vehicle operator. We have a lot of people now coming into the country and what's happening is their [taxi drivers] job is being made harder. We have just learned that you can apply for a PPS number online. On what planet is that right? You can come here, burn your passport, apply online for a PPS number and then you can go and in a lot of cases they're ending up behind the wheel of taxis. Then we have the government complaining about taxis; sure they're the ones who are responsible for this mayhem here, and it doesn't apply in any other country," said Roe.

He went on to say that if a new government is elected, he would expect it to stop spreading false information because it's disrespectful to public service vehicle workers including bus drivers, coach drivers limousine drivers etc.

"Their safety is being jeopardised left right and centre. We want to see an amendment to this here, and we'd like to see it sooner rather than later because these questions have to be answered," said Roe.



GLENEAGLE  
HOTEL & APARTMENTS  
★★★★

Treat a loved one  
this Christmas



use a Gleneagle gift voucher for  
HOTELS BREAKS | CONCERT TICKETS  
PAMPERING...AND MORE!

PURCHASE TODAY!

The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland. | 064 6671550  
[www.gleneaglehotel.com](http://www.gleneaglehotel.com) | [info@gleneaglehotel.com](mailto:info@gleneaglehotel.com)



# TRAD Fest 20

22-26 JANUARY 2025

Tom Paxton & Ralph McTell

Transatlantic Women:

with Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Maura O'Connell,  
Muireann Nic Aomhlaibh, Julie Fowlis, String Sisters

The Scratch Frankie Gavin & De Dannan & Biird

Women of Note with Aoife Scott & Peggy Seeger

Eric Bibb Lindisfarne Féile Kíla

Wallis Bird - Vision of Venus Stockton's Wing

Eleanor McEvoy Scullion Seán Keane Martin Simpson

Stephen Rea, Neil Martin, Louise & Michelle Mulcahy,

Matt Molloy, Maighread Ní Dhomnaill, Paddy Glackin

Moya Brennan Karen Casey, Niamh Dunne,

Sean óg Graham - The Women We Will Rise

Liz & Yvonne Kane with John Blake Macalla

Mike Hanrahan & Eleanor Shanley Gerry O'Connor

Steo Wall, Katie Theasby, Trish Reilly, Wilzee & Stephen Pecker Dunne

Mick Hanly with Anto Drennan & Eoin O'Neill The Henry Girls

Tara Breen Yankari & Ines Khai Phelim Drew Laoise Kelly Daoirí Farrell

Caoimhín O'Raghallaigh Lorcán McMathuna & Martin Tourish

Padraig Jack & Cuas Kieran Goss & Annie Kinsella Lisa Lambe

Emma Langford Dug Landless George Murphy & The Rising Sons

Dublin Pride Géilí Evelyn Kallansee & Declan Sinnott Sharyn Ward

Séamus & Caoimhe Uí Flatharta Lauren Ní Néill Toshin

Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin Josephine Marsh, Mick Kinsella & Seamus Cahill

Varo Bernadette Ní Gabhann Macdara Yeates Sorcha Costello Brídín

Elaine Reilly Diarmuid Ó Meachair Jacqui Martin & Derek Hickey

Paudie O'Connor & Aoife Ní Chaoimh

**tradfest.com**

f/TradFest @tradfesttdublin x/trad\_fest @tradfest



# HAD AN ACCIDENT ? NEED HELP ?

## NEXUS LEGAL

WE WORK WITH TAXI COMPANIES & DRIVERS

Fast-tracking Your accident Claims &  
Protecting Your No Claims Bonus



## WHY ARE WE SO SUCCESSFUL?

### FAST TRACK CLAIMS:

Strong Relationships with Insurers expediate claims

### SPEEDING UP WAIT TIMES:

With direct insurer contact

### GET BACK ON THE ROAD QUICKER:

Minimizes vehicle downtime

### LET US DO THE WORK;

We handle all paperwork and claim processing

### LET THE CAMERA BE YOUR WITNESS:

Dashcam evidence will speed up your claim and reduce your costs  
and **Protect Your No Claim Bonus**

### STREAMLINING

Fleet claims for taxi companies

**30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE**

ORDER YOUR  
**FREE STICKER**  
**NOW**  
PHONE  
**087-2908 661**



HAD AN ACCIDENT? NEED HELP? CALL:

NEXUS LEGAL  
087 2908661  
www.nexuslegal.ie



SCAN ME FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

# NEXUS LEGAL

ASSISTING TAXI DRIVERS  
& TAXI COMPANIES



## YOU'VE JUST BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT...

**E**very accident causes stress. It may surprise you just how many people forget to do even the simplest of common-sense tasks to protect themselves and their insurance policy in the event of an accident. This confusion could result in a scenario whereby you don't gather the crucial information that is necessary to successfully process your claim.

**Here are a few important tips that will help and guide you in the event you're involved in an accident...**

### WHAT TO DO IN AN ACCIDENT EITHER A HIT & RUN OR WHERE THE DRIVER HAS NO INSURANCE

#### IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT...

- 1) CHECK ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOURSELF AND YOUR PASSAGER(S)
- 2) IF A DASHCAM IS FITTED TO THE VEHICLE, "HIT THE RED BUTTON" TO ENSURE THE INCIDENT IS SAVED IN REAL TIME
- 3) DO NOT MOVE THE VEHICLE
- 4) "DROP A PIN" - SAVE YOUR EXACT LOCATION BY SIMPLY USING ANY NAVIGATION APP ON YOUR PHONE
- 5) USING YOUR PHONE, TAKE AN IMAGE OR VIDEO OF THE POSITION OF THE VEHICLES ON THE ROAD
- 6) ASK THE OTHER PARTY FOR DETAILS OF THEIR INSURANCE TO INCLUDE THEIR NAME, INSURANCE COMPANY & POLICY NUMBER
- 7) TAKE AN IMAGE OF THE INSURANCE DISC ON THE WINDSCREEN
- 8) TAKE NOTE OF THE TIME AND EXACT LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT
- 9) IF YOU DO HAVE PASSANGERS IN THE CAR, ASK FOR THEIR NAME ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS
- 10) IF THERE IS ANY WITNESSES, ASK FOR THEIR NAME & CONTACT DETAILS
- 11) CALL THE GARDAI...IF THEY CAN'T ATTEND THE SCENE, GO TO THE NEAREST GARDAI STATION AND REPORT THE INCIDENT AND GET THE NAME OF THE ASSISTING GARDAI

**DO NOT LEAVE THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT  
UNTIL YOU HAVE EXCHANGED DETAILS**



*"I have worked with Nuala in a professional capacity for many years. Our members face many challenges after an accident, but Nuala has been so professional and tenacious and at the same time explaining everything in detail, making this difficult process so much easier. I cannot recommend Nuala enough. She and her staff are very diligent and efficient in assisting our members."*

Alan Cooley | President Taxi Federation

In addition to the guidelines set out above, you must follow these additional steps:

#### • ALL ACCIDENTS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE GARDA SIOCHANA, IMMEDIATELY.

• In the last Edition I dealt with the importance of DASHCAM. In the case where a driver leaves the scene of the accident or has no valid policy of insurance having DASHCAM is critical. The DASHCAM IS YOUR WITNESS, it's proof that the accident happened, where it happened and the circumstances surrounding it. The DASHCAM will have the date and time and will also show what happened in the lead up to the accident.

• The DASHCAM is crucial in that it may be possible to track the Registration number of the offending vehicle which will assist the Gardai in their investigations. This is just one example of how your DASHCAM will ultimately save time and expense.

• Where you are in an accident involving an uninsured or an untraced vehicle and where you have Comprehensive Insurance, you have to claim off your own policy of insurance. Your no-claims bonus will be affected until your Insurance Company has proof that you are not responsible for the accident. Under the MIBI Agreement your Insurance Company will have to reinstate your no-claims bonus.

• If you have been injured, you are entitled to submit a personal injury claim against the Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland and against the uninsured party if they can be traced.

The Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland is a non-profit organisation set up by Government in conjunction with insurance companies in Ireland to compensate people who have suffered damage or injury in motor vehicle accidents where the party that has caused the accident has no insurance, provided you are not responsible for the accident.

For further assistance contact Nuala at Nexus Legal on 087-2908 661.

This article is for information purposes only and should not be relied upon for legal advice.



**CONTACT OUR OFFICE ON 087-2908 661, FOR FREE INFORMATION STICKERS FOR YOUR VEHICLE**





# *Festive Fun Stays* *Alpine Skate Package*

## *Experience Cork on Ice*

**Family 2 Night Package: from €499**  
including dinner, breakfast and tickets!

**Couples Overnight Package: from €239**  
including dinner, breakfast and tickets!

*Available November 8th-January 19th 2025*



**WHY NOT TAKE A TRIP  
OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK**

*27th of December to 6th of January!*

**Booking Essential on 021-420 8400**  
or email [reservations@orielhousehotel.ie](mailto:reservations@orielhousehotel.ie)

## The Board of the National Transport Authority (NTA) has approved a nine per cent increase in the National Maximum Taxi Fare following the latest review.



The fare adjustment is due to take effect on the 1 December ensuring that taxi fares continue to reflect the rising costs associated with operating a taxi service in Ireland. Is carried out by the approximately every two years to ensure that taxi fares keep pace with changes in operating costs and to maintain the availability of quality taxi services throughout the country. The 2024 Review which was published in July this year found that overall, the costs associated with operating a taxi increased between 2022 and 2024 by approximately 9- 11%.

**F**ollowing public consultation on the increase in operating costs experienced by taxi drivers found in the 2024 review, the Taxi Regulation (Maximum Fares) Order 2024 will increase taxi fares by an average of 9%, weighted across time bands and distances.

A 'Special Rate' currently applies to taxi fares for journeys taken between Christmas Eve 20:00h and St. Stephens Day 08:00h & New Years Eve 20:00h and New Years Day 08:00h.

Under the determination published today, that Special Rate will be extended to include the weekend peak, 12 midnight to 4.00am, on Friday night into Saturday morning and Saturday night into Sunday morning, year-round, in an effort to incentivise more drivers to service the nighttime economy.

The fee for pre-booking a taxi will also increase from €2.00 to €3.00.

The Taximeter Program Update list below shows which taximeters can now be programmed with the 2024 fare in advance of the commencement of the National Maximum Fare Order on 1st December.

Pre-programming the taximeter ensures a seamless transition to the new fare without any loss of trade for operators. This list will be frequently updated as more programs are approved. The following taximeter programs are now approved by Legal Metrology with the 2024 fare:

Manufacturer:	Model:	Date Approved:
Alberon	M12	17/10/2024
Cygnus	MR400	24/10/2024
Cygnus	MR500	22/10/2024
Cygnus	MR500 View	22/10/2024
Digitax	F1 (All models)	24/10/2024
Digitax	F3	22/10/2024
Digitax	M1 (All Models)	24/10/2024
Digitax	F2	22/10/2024
Tetas	A1	15/10/2024

Programming of the taximeter is completed by a private taximeter installer of your choice. Please do not contact your taximeter installer for a booking until you have confirmed that your taximeter model is on this list, as the installers will not be ready to take bookings until the new fare program has been submitted by the taximeter manufacturers and approved by LMS.

Once you have your taximeter installed and calibrated with the new 2024 fare program and you have received your TTI form by email from the installer, you can make a verification booking with the authorised verifier, Applus by logging onto the Legal Metrology website <https://taximeterverification.nsai.ie>, or alternatively please contact the taximeter verification booking line on: 01 143 5951.

Remember, to avoid any loss of trade, all taxi meters must be verified with the new fare program by December 1st"

### CEO Statement

Commenting on the approval of the increase, CEO of the National Transport Authority Anne Graham said: "The NTA's biennial review is essential to ensuring the taxi industry remains sustainable and can continue to offer high-quality and reliable services. This 9% increase provides for the increasing operational costs drivers are facing while balancing the needs of the travelling public"

### Fare increase set to come into effect on 1 December 2024

Over the coming months, taxi meters will be recalibrated in line with the new fares and taxi operators will be required to display updated fare cards following the implementation date.

The NTA remains committed to promoting a high-quality, accessible, and affordable public transport system, of which the taxi industry is an integral part. Regular fare reviews are necessary to keep the industry sustainable and ensure it meets the needs of both operators and passengers. The NTA will review the impact of this fare increase 12 months after implementation to ensure that all needs are served by the increase.

For further information, please access the National Maximum Taxi Fare Review at [Nationaltransport.ie](http://Nationaltransport.ie)





Hynse Park Courtlough Mcowleys Yard,  
North County Dublin Balbriggan - K32YH29

[www.hill16tiles.ie](http://www.hill16tiles.ie)

**Phone: 01 8903408**

[info@hill16tiles.com](mailto:info@hill16tiles.com)

# BEST PRICES IN IRELAND

## TILES | BATROOMS | FLOORS | WALLS



[www.hill16tiles.ie](http://www.hill16tiles.ie) | 01 890 3408



# New Fiat 600e will Electrify Your Emotions



While the original Fiat 600 was launched in Europe in 1955 with a tiny 25bhp petrol engine, the all-new Fiat 600 shares nothing, but its name, with its iconic predecessor.

**T**he stunning new Fiat 600 takes the best of the B and B-SUV worlds to offer a beautiful, joyful and pampered driving experience, marking the Italian brand's return to the highly-competitive B-segments. Available in both hybrid and fully-electric, the new Fiat 600 is an ideal car for Irish roads, and the perfect embodiment of the brand's values of celebrated Italian style and sustainability. It is the fully-electric Fiat 600 (badged 600e) that the editorial below refers to.

## Latest Electrified Platform.

In 2021, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and the French PSA Group merged to form Stellantis – one of the largest automakers in the world. As a result, the fully-electric 600e uses the latest Stellantis e-CMP2 platform, with its integrated battery design boosting rigidity in the process. Its 156hp electric motor sits transversely within the platform and it sends its power to the cars' front wheels in a composed and amenable fashion. The new 600 features a sharper and more assertive face than its Fiat 500 sibling, and it comes with a distinctive LED lighting identity. The elegant, yet dynamic, exterior look is enhanced by stylish wheels (from 16" to 18" in size), matt black wheel arches, and black trim elements around its lower edges to emphasise its robust nature. Additional exterior highlights include glossy black details, chrome accents and suitably-

distinctive rear lights. The characterful exterior styling is replicated in the cabin where its smart interior design is both visually impressive and pleasingly practical for up to 5 occupants. With all rear seats in their upright position, the boot has a capacity of 360-litres, but this can be expanded to 1,256-litres when the rear seats are folded down. The last time Fiat dealerships had the opportunity to have a 500 and 600 on display together in their showroom was in the early 1970's, so the arrival of the new 600 is a really big deal for the iconic Italian brand.

## 'Red' and 'La Prima' trim grades.

The lithium-ion batteries in the 600e come with a 54kWh capacity (51kWh usable) that provides a range of up to 408km on a WLTP combined driving cycle, and more than 600km on a city-only driving cycle. The 600e is equipped with a 100kW fast-charger system and it comes with a 11kW on-board charger and a Mode 3 cable for charging at home, or in public. The electric powertrain produces 156hp and 260Nm of instant torque, providing acceleration from 0-100km/h in just 9-seconds. Drivers can choose from three driving modes – Eco, Normal & Sport – which can be selected to match individual driving styles. With the 600e, buyers can choose between 'Red' and 'La Prima' trim grades, which are priced at €32,995 and €37,995 respectively (inclusive of SEAI Grant & VRT Rebate).



### Level 2 Assisted Driving.

As with the 600 Hybrid, the 600e is packed with state-of-the-art safety and driver assistance features that make it ready for everyday life. It offers level 2 assisted driving, bringing all the associated benefits to every journey. Features include Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), Stop&Go function, Electric Parking Brake, Autonomous Emergency Braking, and Drowsy Driver Detection to monitor driver concentration levels. In order to enhance comfort and connectivity for all occupants, the new 600e 'Red' is available with key standard features such as; a red-painted dashboard fascia, electric windows x 4, auto air-conditioning, dusk and rain sensors, a 4-speaker sound system, a fully customisable 10.25-inch infotainment screen with wireless Apple CarPlay & Android Auto, a 7-inch digital driver information cluster, rear parking sensors, and a Red Version Kit that comes with a variety of exclusive internal and external styling, with logos located on the front and side of the car. Upgrading to 'La Prima' trim brings with it additional key features like a handsfree tailgate, Navigation, leather seat upholstery, Ivory painted dashboard fascia, 18" diamond-cut alloy wheels, chrome styling accents, rear privacy glass, 6 speaker sound system, driver seat with 8-way power adjustment and massage function, front, rear and side parking sensors, rear view camera with dynamic gridlines, wireless charging, traffic sign recognition, and urban blind spot monitor.

### Car on Review.

My review car was a Fiat 600e 'Red', which was finished in Black metallic paintwork (a €695 option) with a red-painted '600' badge on the nose of the car, and a red FIAT badge, along with a discreet blue-coloured 'e' moniker on the tailgate door. The FIAT smartphone app offers drivers a broad range of services so that they can stay connected to their car and bring their digital world on board. While the 600e does its own rounded instrument cowl and upper dashboard design, pretty much everything from the air vents down is shared

with the Jeep Avenger, including the very useful voluminous lidded centre console storage cubby. On the road is where the new 600e really comes into its own. The electric motor is impressively quiet, and the cabin is well insulated from road, wind and tyre noise. The centre console-mounted gear selector is of the push-button variety and is super-intuitive in its operation. Brake regeneration is easy to access on the selector panel, and engaging it means that energy usually lost through braking can be sent back to the battery for an enhanced driving range. The 600e is an easy and undemanding car to drive, and its manoeuvrability along congested city streets is so easy to get used to. With the Sport drive mode selected, the accelerator pedal response is sharpened, and all the motor's power is made available for an enhanced driving experience. There is a nicely-weighted feel to the steering and the car maintains good grip through sharp bends and tight corners. The suspension in the 600e is comfort-oriented, so that all occupants can benefit from a cossetting ride quality on every journey. When it comes to the time for charging the battery in the 600e, the best option is to connect via a 100kW DC public fast charger that can complete a 20-80% charge in as little as 27 minutes. However, a domestic wallbox charger is the option that many owners will opt for as they can achieve a full charge as they sleep and wake up to a fully charged battery in the morning. Excellent electric efficiency and annual road tax of just €120 guarantee low overall running costs.

### Conclusion & Price.

Having spent a week behind the wheel of my 600e 'Red' review car, I can confidently say that it is a comfortable car to sit in, it is very well equipped, it is easy to drive, and it offers all occupants good visibility throughout. Additionally, it is well priced for a European electric car, with prices starting at just €32,995 for the 'Red' version (inclusive of current Irish Government EV incentives). Visit [www.fiat.ie](http://www.fiat.ie) for further information.





# DRIVERS WANTED

CONTACT  
KEITH - 085 141 8735



## CHARGES



**€100**  
per week

OR



**€20**  
per day

charges operated on a 24/7 work shift basis

**Boasting a Consistent Customer Flow from the  
Black Forge Inn**



## SERVICED AREAS

- ✓ CRUMLIN
- ✓ DRIMNAGH
- ✓ WALKINSTOWN
- ✓ DUBLIN 8
- ✓ TERENCE
- ✓ TALLAGHT
- ✓ RATHFARNHAM
- ✓ BALLSBRIDGE
- ✓ BLUEBELL
- ✓ HAROLDS CROSS





# AUTOBOUTIQUE

## PROTECT YOUR TAXI



Leather-look  
seat covers for  
taxis.  
Fully fitted and  
guaranteed.

- WATERPROOF
- DUSTPROOF
- EASY WIPE-CLEAN

NEW  
DESIGN  
DOUBLE  
STITCHING



### !!!NEW!!!

IN STOCK

SET OF HEAVY-DUTY

**CAR MATS & BOOT MATS**

(SIMILAR TO THOSE FEATURED HERE)

TO SUIT ALL CARS & VANS



**AUTOBOUTIQUE**

61B KEEPER ROAD, DRIMNAGH, DUBLIN 12

085 784 3098



# Taxi driver who dislocated man's shoulder after he clamped his car gets suspended sentence



Judge Elma Sheahan said the accused was convicted following a trial of assault causing harm.

**A** taxi driver who dislocated a man's shoulder after he clamped his car has been handed a suspended sentence.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Feliks Andrianov (54) of Corduff Green, Blanchardstown, Dublin, was found guilty after a trial of assault causing harm at McDonald's restaurant, Dublin Airport on July 5, 2019. He has no previous convictions.

Andrianov, who discharged his legal team after his trial, represented himself at the sentence hearing. At a previous hearing, he was remanded into custody for two hours after he raised his voice at Judge Elma Sheahan.

When he returned to the courtroom, he was asked by the judge if he wanted to continue to represent himself or seek a new legal team.

He was still representing himself when sentence was passed down.

Judge Elma Sheahan said the accused was convicted following a trial of assault causing harm. She said the aggravating factor in this case was the seriousness of the offending.

Judge Elma Sheahan said the accused was convicted following a trial of assault causing harm. She said the aggravating factor in this case was the seriousness of the offending.

Judge Sheahan said that the mitigating factors were Andrianov's previous good character, his co-operation with the gardai, his long history of employment in Ireland, and his family's support.

The judge said that this was an unusual case and that Andrianov had fought the case believing that CCTV and body cam footage had been tampered with. He also refused to accept the jury's verdict.

Judge Sheahan sentenced Andrianov to 18 months in prison but suspended it in full for 18 months.

Garda Paul Murphy told Derek Cooney BL, prosecuting, that Michael Norris began work as a security worker at 7am on the morning of July 5, 2019.

He was working at McDonald's located across from Dublin Airport. Mr Norris was instructed that if he saw anyone park their vehicle and walk off the site, he should clamp it.

The court heard that not long after 7.30am on the morning in question,

Mr Norris saw a taxi driver park his car and leave the area to go to Circle K. Signs stating that cars parked here would be clamped were located throughout the area. Mr Norris proceeded to clamp the car.

A short time later, the taxi driver, who was later identified as Andrianov, returned to his car, and Mr Norris walked over.

Andrianov was informed that this car park was for McDonald's customers only and not for Circle K customers. Mr Norris then turned on his body cam.

The court heard that Andrianov looked down at the body cam, put his hand over it and then instigated an altercation by grabbing Mr Norris. The security worker noticed that his left shoulder was injured, and he was unable to move it.

He went into McDonald's and an ambulance was called. He was treated at Beaumont Hospital with an X-ray showing he had a dislocated left shoulder.

During questioning, Andrianov told gardai that he had been struck first by the security guard. Gardai obtained CCTV and the body cam footage, which showed that the security officer did not hit the taxi driver.

A victim impact statement was read to the court by the prosecuting counsel, stating that Mr Norris had to leave this employment due to fear of being assaulted at work. He said that he was unable to work for a period of time due to his injuries.

The court heard his partner gave birth 10 days after the assault, and he was unable to hold his baby and help his wife. He also had to sell his car and buy an automatic car due to his injury.

The court heard that Andrianov came to Ireland over 20 years ago and has worked here for his entire time. He is a married man and father. He is originally from Lithuania. His mother still lives there and is dependent on him.

Documents were handed into the court by Andrianov, which outlined his work history, a medical report from when he was involved in a car accident many years ago and documents outlining the ill health of his mother.

Andrianov told the court: "The truth will come out".

# Farmer offers €15k to man injured in one-punch attack in row over car mistaken for taxi



The victim got into a car after mistakenly thinking it was a taxi

**A** young farmer who left a man with a head injury following a one-punch attack in a row over a car mistaken for a taxi has offered his victim €15,000 as a gesture of his remorse.

Kyle Leeper appeared at Letterkenny Circuit Court where he admitted attacking Don Rowan on February 20th, 2022.

The court heard how the victim had got into a car at Lower main Street in Letterkenny with his wife and friends after mistakenly thinking it was a taxi.

Leeper, aged 25, came out of a nearby bar with his girlfriend and also tried to get into the car as it was driven by his girlfriend's dad. A row ensued and there was some 'slagging' before Mr Rowan was struck with one punch by Leeper.

Garda Sergeant Maurice Doyle gave evidence that the victim fell backwards onto the pavement and banged his head. He was put in an ambulance but felt okay and did not go to hospital.

However, the following day he was vomiting and went to Letterkenny University Hospital before being transferred to Dublin's Beaumont Hospital where a neurological team found he suffered a displaced fracture and other facial injuries.

He was off work for three months as a result of the injuries he sustained in the attack. Gardai launched an investigation and CCTV was harvested from local premises while pictures of the victim were also taken.

Leeper, of Carrickbrack, Convoy, was interviewed by Gardai and claimed the incident was "a self defence sort of thing." They had just come out of Voodoo at Lower Main Street in Letterkenny and had had about eight drinks.

He explained how himself and his girlfriend were due to get a lift home off her dad but that other people had got into the car and that names were "flying in" but nothing bad had happened.

No direct reference was made to Leeper striking Mr Rowan but he said this was the first time something like this had happened to

him and that he never wanted it to happen again.

Leeper pleaded guilty to assaulting Don Rowan and causing him harm on February 20, 2022 at Lower Main Street, Letterkenny. Barrister for Leeper, Mr Peter Nolan BL, said his client had no previous convictions, had never been in trouble before and worked as a farm contractor having a degree in Agricultural Science.

He lives with his girlfriend in a mobile home and they have recently had a son. Mr Nolan said "I would suggest this is a young man who never got in any bother before, is hard working and on this occasion he made a bad decision.

"He committed a criminal act but is not a criminal. Yes, I agree that throwing one punch can lead to devastating consequences and in some ways he is lucky that Mr Rowan is not more seriously injured."

Leeper took to the witness stand and told the court that he would like to say sorry to his victim. "I'd just like to say sorry and say I have learned a lesson and it will not happen again. It was a spur of the moment thing," he said.

His barrister Mr Nolan told the court that his client was also offering his victim of €15,000 which he has borrowed from his parents and which he will pay back. He said his client had suffered psychologically from the incident and was on antidepressants.

He added "He was a happy-go-lucky young man, educated but this has blighted him. He wants to move on with his life and he wants Mr Rowan to realise that he did not mean to do this."

Two references were handed into court on behalf of Leeper, one from Gibson Farm Services and one from Councillor Frank McBrearty, both of which spoke very positively of Leeper. Meanwhile, a Probation Report on Leeper said there had been no reoffending and put him at a low risk of reoffending in the future.

Judge John Aylmer said he would like the victim to be canvassed to get his opinion on the offer of €15,000 and also time to read the Probation Report and consider the matter. He adjourned the case for sentence.





# Shockingly good Electric SPSV Insurance.



**New, green initiative from FBD Insurance  
offering discounts on Electric Vehicles  
within their Taxi Insurance product**

**Same great cover with a discounted price**

**FBD Taxi Insurance is available  
exclusively via TaxiFair Insurance**



**Contact us today for more information**

21A Clanbrassil Street Lower, Dublin 8 | Tel : 01 485 1996 | Email : [help@taxifair.ie](mailto:help@taxifair.ie)

TaxiFair Insurances Limited T/A TaxiFair Insurances is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland

# O'Sullivan Motors

A Family-Run Business Since 1983

## Your Dealer For All Cars

## Quality New & Used Cars

## Electric & Hybrid Specialists

✓ Quality Pre-Owned Cars   ✓ Competitive Pricing   ✓ Trade-ins Welcome

## Full Garage Facilities

- ✓ **Air-Con Refill**
- ✓ **Gearbox Servicing**
- ✓ **NCT Fails**
- ✓ **Service**

Unit 9 Tolka Valley  
Business Park,  
Ballyboggan Rd,  
Finglas, D11

## Telephone: **01 2441065**

Email: [info@osullivanmotorsdublin.ie](mailto:info@osullivanmotorsdublin.ie)

[www.osullivanmotorsdublin.ie](http://www.osullivanmotorsdublin.ie)



# O'Sullivan Motors

Your dealer for electric,  
wheelchair-accessable & hybrid cars

**FINANCE DEALS AVAILABLE  
ALL NTA GRANTS ACCEPTED!**



**Byd Atto 3 / 2024 / Full Electric /  
TAXI GRANT**



**Ford Transit / 2024 / 8 Seater / Auto /  
Wheelchair**



**Toyota Prius / 2020 / 1.8 Petrol /  
Hybrid**



**Volkswagen Caddy / 2025 / Taxi Spec  
Wheelchair Accessible/**

O'Sullivan Motors  
Unit 9, Tolka Valley Business Park,  
Ballyboggan Road, Dublin 11

**01 244 1065**  
**osullivanmotorsdublin@hotmail.com**

**- VIEW MUCH, MUCH MORE AT -**  
**osullivanmotorsdublin.ie**

FREENOW ✓

# NEW: FREENOW MARKETPLACE



**LOOKING TO RENT A NEW TAXI?  
OR GOT ONE YOU WANT TO RENT OUT?  
DO BOTH IN ONE PLACE WITH THE  
FREENOW MARKETPLACE.**

## WHY USE FREENOW TAXI MARKETPLACE?



### SIMPLE

It makes it easy to connect with other drivers and renters.



### TAILORED

Find a vehicle that fits your needs and budget perfectly.



### TRANSPARENT

Enjoy full transparency and support throughout the process.



### BOOSTED

Maximise your earnings by our unlocking ambassador benefits after renting a car.

GET **STARTED** ➔

Visit [www.free-now.com/ie/taxi-marketplace](http://www.free-now.com/ie/taxi-marketplace)



# Galway taxi driver on how city centre traffic congestion is impacting drivers and bookings



**'It's never been so bad, with no end in sight'**

**A** taxi driver of 35 years has said that he's never seen traffic so brutal in Galway city and the issue is seriously harming local taxi firms.

Mike Kelly, a third generation taxi driver who works for Big O Taxis, told Galway Beo that journeys in and through the city centre are taking almost twice as long as they used to.

"Every road is backed up, it's hard to know what the answer is. I brought a woman last Friday from Eyre Square to Ballybane, and it was €23 on a metre and it should be only about maybe €11 or €12," he said.

"I didn't charge her the full fare because it wouldn't be right. It's not just about the money, it's about good service and getting repeat customers but the money has been hit hard too."

"We are competing with Uber and FreeNow. I could get a job in the evening and it would take nearly 40 minutes just to get there for pick-up. The traffic is that bad."

"You could go out to the Maldron Hotel from Eyre Square and by the time you get out there, they've jumped into another taxi that was dropping someone off."

"You're driving for most of an hour and you get there and the customer is gone. I can't blame them either, would you want to wait that long for a taxi? There's nothing we can do about the traffic."

Mike added that it's not just the city centre itself that is the issue, but Headford Road, Tuam Road, Dyke Road, the Old Dublin Road and other routes taking commuters into the city each morning and back out each evening.

"I have a brother who lives in Claregalway and leaves for work in Athlone at 8am, he's there at quarter to 9. I live near him and it takes me nearly an hour just to get into Galway city each morning."

As for potential solutions to the city's traffic problem, Mike said that the long-delayed ring road for the city "can only help" matters, while a park and ride scheme to Parkmore might also be handy for taking cars off the roads.

"I see a lot of traffic going out to Parkmore with all the medical manufacturers out there. Maybe a bus scheme from Knocknacarra would help with traffic," he said.

"There used to have a one way system from Bohermore and coming up along College Road. Maybe that's the way forward."

"I've been a driver since I was 18. My dad was a taxi driver. My grandfather was a taxi driver. Right now we're getting a lot of missed pick-ups and long delays because of the traffic and it's affecting our income, definitely. We aren't trying to rake in a huge profit, just stay afloat."

# Taxi drivers worried they may owe VAT on commissions paid to Uber

Unlike other taxi-booking apps, Uber does not collect tax from drivers and pay it to Revenue, leaving drivers wondering if they will be pursued by taxman



**T**housands of taxi drivers have been put under significant stress because they are unsure of whether they will be pursued by Revenue for VAT on the money they have paid in commission to Uber over the past five years, it has been claimed.

The problem has arisen after the drivers became aware Uber was not collecting the tax and paying it on their behalf in the way that rival platforms Bolt and FreeNow do, according to Derek O'Keeffe, who runs the online forum Taxi Drivers Ireland.

"It's the first time in the history of the State drivers have ever had to contemplate paying VAT and it is all they are talking about at the moment," he says.

"Uber has been operating taxis in Dublin for the last four or five years and what you have is many of the more than 11,000 taxi drivers in Dublin now asking if they are they subject to VAT and do they need to pay it for the last five years. For a lot of them, it's absolutely scary."

The problem arises because Uber, like Bolt and FreeNow, charges drivers a commission on the fares paid by customers who book trips through it but, unlike its rivals, does not charge them VAT on these commissions and so does not pay it to Revenue.

Uber's view, set out on its website and in a briefing document prepared for it by KPMG, is that while charges for transporting passengers are not subject to VAT in Ireland, the "lead-generation" services it provides to the drivers from the Netherlands are and it advises the drivers to register for and pay the VAT themselves.

The problem is a particular one for drivers as there are other reporting obligations involved and they are not able to claim VAT back on fuel or other work-related goods.

Responding to a query from The Irish Times, the Revenue Commissioners did not specifically say they would pursue the VAT but did say the regime here is subject to European law, and drivers would be liable where VAT has not been paid by a provider of services to them based outside the State. The Revenue said it will

monitor drivers' tax returns and other data available to it to assess compliance, and those drivers found not to have paid all monies due would not be able to obtain the tax clearance certificates they require to renew public service licenses.

Stephen Fennell, an accountant who advises a number of taxi drivers on their tax affairs, believes the amounts involved would be relatively small for most drivers, with the trouble involved in making returns potentially a bigger hassle.

I don't think the VAT liabilities here are extensive but from a driver's point of view it's a question of do they want the hassle registering for VAT and having to make VAT returns and be obligated for VAT compliance? Probably not. That may cause them to reconsider the use of Uber because the potential costs to administer this may be greater than the net VAT liability itself," said Mr Fennell.

"I'd be more interested in the issue of why Uber are choosing not to charge VAT in Ireland. Why are they not playing by the same rules as FreeNow? And from Revenue's perspective, if Uber were to charge drivers directly ... it would simplify matters. Collecting VAT from one entity, as opposed to trying to collect it from 2,000, 3000, 4000 drivers ... it'd be an administrative nightmare for Revenue Commissioners for perhaps little return."

He estimates a typical VAT liability as about €300 per year, which could be offset against income tax, but Mr O'Keeffe says many drivers could pay €5,000 in commission to Uber each year which, over five years, would generate a VAT liability of €5,570.

"You don't even know if they are liable for it," he says, as drivers, he insists, were not even aware of the possibility until the last few weeks and there has been no communication from the Revenue Commissioners suggesting a liability.

"But if you are and you are a husband with a wife and a mortgage and three kids back to school, that sort of money is going to push someone over the edge."

Mr O'Keeffe says he has struggled to get clarification from either Uber or Revenue.





Cost Efficient  
Simple to Complete  
**Irish Tax Returns**  
FOR THE IRISH TAXI INDUSTRY

A festive Christmas wreath with green holly leaves, red berries, and pinecones, tied with a large red bow at the bottom.

## Tax Return for Irish Taxi Drivers

# You Drive a Taxi, we do your Tax

**For as Little as €120+VAT per year**  
**FAST AND EFFICIENT SERVICE**



**Quick Easy  
Service**



**Fast and  
Efficient**



**Over the Phone or  
Via Email**

**DON'T MISS THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER DEADLINE**



**085 199 8321**  
**[www.mycabtax.ie](http://www.mycabtax.ie)**

Unit 3E Deerpark Business Centre,  
Oranmore, Co Galway.  
Telephone: 091 447178 / 087 9188907

# Martina Roe Lay Counselling Society

The Martina Rose Lay Counselling Society (formerly the Irish Taxi Drivers Lay Counselling Association) is a group founded by taxi driver Tony Roe, in honour of his wife who passed away a number of years ago. It is dedicated to providing support to those within all sectors of the public service transport industry who have experienced bereavement.

**F**rom its humble beginnings of just a few like-minded taxi drivers, it has grown to include Luas, bus, train drivers and others, with upwards of 50 members.

Speaking to Tacsai magazine, founder Tony Roe said:

"Last week we were in Tipperary. A group of 17 drivers went down as part of the society and stayed at the Cahir House Hotel. We got the room that caters for four for just €47 and the breakfast was €20. It's a beautiful hotel; room service, large bar, we were all singing and dancing, we had a great night."

Roe went on to say that whilst there they met Matty McGrath (local Independent TD) there and had a great tête-à-tête with him; informing him of what they were doing, and what he could do to support taxi drivers. He said McGrath was very accommodating despite the fact that Roe told him that the group considers politicians to be gangsters more or less.

The group also visited Clonmel and Limerick on this particular tour, and Roe stressed the importance of keeping active to help relieve the pain of bereavement.

"Everybody enjoyed it immensely. My philosophy is that we have to keep an open book and do things continually. Two of the

group on this trip retired recently and I am encouraging them not to let their licence lapse and I would make a plea to all drivers out there; if you are thinking of retiring and packing it in, keep the licence current; renew it, don't let it lapse. If you have a licence and you feel like that; sign it over to your next of kin; your son, grandson, niece, nephew or whatever, because a lot of drivers let it lapse, and it seems to be an awful sin that something that was worth over €100, 000 is worth very little. Maybe somewhere down the line a family member could use it to supplement their income," said Roe, adding that he speaks to a lot of drivers who retire, only to find years, months even weeks down the line that they want to return to work.

The group meets on a regular basis. Along with the trips abroad and outside of Dublin they regularly get together for a sing song, with some members defying age by taking up new instruments in their latter years. According to Roe no one is old, they're just a recycled teenager!

The group are currently planning a trip to Romania and all are welcome.

If you would like to get involved with the group, please call Tony Roe at: 085 108 9482.

## TAXI DRIVERS

### TAX RETURNS

*Only....!* **€60**



- Accountants for full time Taxi Drivers with unparalleled Experience •
  - Continuous monitoring of Tax Clearance •
  - Letter's and Accounts, included in the fee •
    - Nationwide service •
  - Discounted rate for TTnH Members only •
    - 16 years experience •



Telephone: 085 215 7999

Email: [info@ttnh.ie](mailto:info@ttnh.ie)

Unit 9, Bellevue, Ind. Est., Tolka Valley Rd, D11



# New Skoda Kodiaq is Dynamically Timeless

The second-generation of Skoda's largest SUV, the Kodiaq, has arrived in Ireland with the aim of building on the outstanding success of its predecessor in the Irish car market.



**T**he Kodiaq's overall length has increased by 61mm when compared to its predecessor, but Skoda managed to resist making it any wider. In fact, it is marginally narrower than the car it replaces, and that will prove beneficial when parking in tight car park spaces.

## Powertrain & Trim Options.

The new Kodiaq is based on a new version of the VW Group's MQB Evo platform, which can now accommodate a 25.7kWh hybrid drive battery for an electric-only range of up to 100km. The original Kodiaq was only available with a choice of petrol or diesel engines, so the addition of a Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) version is sure to add to the Kodiaq's overall appeal. As a result, the engine line-up in the new Kodiaq now consists of a 1.5-litre TSI mild-hybrid petrol version with 150hp, a 1.5-litre petrol/electric PHEV with 202hp, a 2.0-litre TDI turbo-diesel with 150hp, and a 2.0-litre TDI with 190hp and all-wheel drive as standard. Both TDI engines are designed to run on regular diesel or HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) and come with a 7-speed DSG (auto) transmission as standard, as does the mild-hybrid petrol model. The PHEV version is mated to a 6-speed DSG transmission, and is only available with 5 seats due to the space required to accommodate the hybrid drive battery under the boot floor. All other versions of the new Kodiaq come with 7 seats as standard. The new Kodiaq is available in Selection, Selection + (plus) and Sportline trim variants across all engine options

## New 'Modern Solid' Design.

As part of Skoda's 'Modern Solid' design language, the exterior of the new Kodiaq has been given slightly softer edges, which reduces its drag coefficient from 0.31Cd to a more aerodynamically-friendly 0.28Cd, and this enhances fuel efficiency, while reducing wind noise in the process. The new Kodiaq promises to pick up where the original version left off, with a powerful new look,

innovative features and even more practicality. Boot volume has increased by up to 75-litres over its predecessor, and the sliding second-row seats can be moved to prioritise passenger space over cargo space, or vice-versa. The number of physical buttons in the cabin have been reduced, but once you have set up some of your favourite shortcuts, important functions will be just a single press away. New 'smart dials' used in the new Kodiaq made their debut in the latest Superb. There are two dials that control the cabin temperature and heated seats, and one to which you can control up to four functions, such as changing the speed of the fan, or selecting a drive mode to suit your driving style or road conditions. The stylish new front grille can be ordered with 14 light elements forming a striking light strip between the LED headlights, while LED Matrix headlights and LED dynamic rear indicators do feature as standard equipment on the majority of models. In terms of safety, the new Kodiaq comes with up to 9 airbags, a range of advanced driver-assistance systems, and eCall for peace-of-mind motoring.

## Car on Review.

My review car was a new Kodiaq Selection + TDI 190 DSG 4x4 in Bronx Gold metallic, with Cognac Leather Suite upholstery and 19-inch "Halti" alloy wheels. In addition to the comprehensive list of standard features in entry-level Selection trim, key additional equipment in Selection + trim includes Matrix LED headlights with variable light distribution, LED taillights with dynamic indicators, dark tinted rear privacy glass, anodised chrome roof rails, door sill scuff plates, and 19-inch alloy wheels, along with the choice of Black or Cognac leather upholstery. The 2.0-litre turbo-diesel engine produces 193hp and a hefty 400Nm of torque, and this results in a 0-100km/h sprint time of just 8.0-seconds. An official fuel economy figure of 6.2l/100km (46mpg) is achievable on a WLTP combined driving cycle, and this is exactly the figure I achieved during my time with the car. With a 58-litre fuel tank as standard, my review car has the ability to achieve up to 935kms

# The Automatic Motor Car Centre

[www.amcc.ie](http://www.amcc.ie)

**Blakes Cross Business  
Park, Lusk, K45X597'**



**450+  
Automatics  
in stock!**

**Ireland's  
leading supplier  
of automatic and  
hybrid cars** with a huge  
selection available to the  
taxi trade.

Our Prius' and Camrys come  
with brand new tyres, fresh  
service and new Taxi NCT.

**Call our office today!  
01 870 2000  
or C  il  n on 0860116631.**





from a full tank of diesel or HVO. With four-wheel drive as standard, the Kodiaq TDI 190 DSG is great to drive on unpaved roads and gravel. The advanced drivetrain system, with an electronically-controlled multi-plate clutch, deals with the slightest change under the wheels in milliseconds, and it provides the car with a terrific sense of stability at all times. The 7-speed DSG dual-clutch automatic transmission has the ability to change gears smoothly in the blink of an eye, while enhancing fuel efficiency at the same time. Instead of having the gear selector on the centre console, the new Kodiaq uses a column stalk similar to that used in some VW cars, and it is really easy to get used to, while also freeing up space on the centre console. The Kodiaq handles sharp bends in the road with impressive fluidity, and the excellent steering set-up offers great feedback to the driver. The car grips the road with

an air of confidence, and even lifting off the throttle does little to disturb the sense of calm within the spacious and well-appointed cabin.

#### **Conclusion & Pricing.**

The new Kodiaq's crisp, elegant lines combined with a distinctive light signature, black grained plastic elements and striking alloy wheel designs make Skoda's large SUV a robust yet dynamic looking car with a timeless design. The Kodiaq offers not only ample interior space for up to seven occupants, but also state-of-the-art technology, multiple connectivity options and a host of innovative solutions. The hugely-impressive Skoda Kodiaq is priced from €54, 680 and is on sale now. For a limited time only, the new Kodiaq is available with 0% APR finance (t's & c's apply).



**Transport Industry  
Consultant Specialists**



**Stop Working at Taxi Ranks ! Stop Working Nights!**  
**Do a School Run in your own Taxi or Bus**  
**Get a Tender with Bus Eireann/LETB**  
**Excellent Rates!!**

 **089 211 91 51 - letsconsult24@gmail.com** 

# Your experience. Our network. Unlimited opportunity.

## More trips

Get rides any time from Uber—airport trips, late night, early morning, and more.

## Extra earnings

More trips = more money. You'll also earn extra when demand is high and keep 100% of your tips.

## Greater choice

Keep picking up rides from the street or get them with the Uber app. It's always your choice.


## Additional support

Powerful in-app features help you feel safe and secure on the road.

# Uber Taxi

Sign up at [drive.uber.com](https://drive.uber.com)



A man with a mustache and a woman are smiling and waving from the back of a car. The man is wearing a brown jacket and holding a phone. The woman is wearing an orange jacket. The background is a blurred city street.

# More trips Extra earnings Greater choice

You can unlock more opportunities  
with Taxi on Uber

Sign up at  
[drive.uber.com](https://drive.uber.com)

A woman with curly hair and sunglasses is driving a car. She is wearing a light blue shirt and a tan jacket. The car's interior and the road ahead are visible.

**Uber** Taxi



# WORLD NEWS

## Top stories from around the globe

### Australia

Taxi drivers to strike after Uber granted kerbside pick-up at Sydney Airport

Taxi drivers went on strike recently after Sydney Airport granted kerbside pick-up to Ubers at the international terminal.

The information about the strike was spread on private Facebook groups for taxi drivers.

Taxis participating would not pick up customers from the international airport.

The post being shared on Facebook reads: "You will lose a few fares and save our industry.

"When the Airport backs down and restores our space without a rank for Uber, then we all go back to work, and keep our passengers and our families happy.

"It will take a day or two, but this is our last chance to preserve the basic rights of Taxis to be the only Rank & Hail service.

Show the Airport, the NSW Government, the non-tax paying International Conspiracy that is Uber, that we believe in the Rule of Law.

"The law says that Rideshare can't ply for hire, can't rank or stand on a road-related area and has to have forward bookings."

### New York

Uber asks NYC to cut minimum driver pay as price of used cars, gasoline drops

Uber has sent a petition requesting cuts to New York City drivers' minimum pay, citing recent drops in the price of used cars and gasoline.

The rideshare giant asked the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission to reduce the per-mile rate in its driver pay formula by 6.1% to \$1.277 from the current \$1.360, according to a letter obtained by The Post and first reported by Bloomberg News.

Uber's pleas are a last-ditch effort to minimize costs as the company sees customers pulling back on frequent rides. CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said during the company's third-quarter earnings call last week that Uber's core US rideshare business had suffered after it passed along the cost of high insurance policies to riders.

### Japan

Japan's Soracle, Archer partner on \$500m electric taxi deal

A partnership between Japan Airlines and Sumitomo Corporation has secured an option to purchase up to 100 electric air-taxis from Archer Aviation, potentially worth US\$500 million.

The joint project, known as Soracle, may proceed with the order dependent on Archer meeting certain milestones.

Archer's air-taxi, called 'Midnight', is designed to carry four passengers and a pilot. It is optimized for short-distance trips of about 20 miles, requiring minimal recharging time.

Soracle plans to implement flight routes in cities like Tokyo and Osaka, awaiting approval from Japanese regulators.

"Japan is widely respected for its forward-thinking approach to transportation and this investment into advanced air mobility is yet another example of that," said Andrew Cummins, senior director of business development at Archer. "We're proud to stand with Soracle ahead of this new era of flight. Together, we are committed to bringing an innovative, sustainable and convenient transportation alternative to the country."

The air taxis could serve Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hokkaido, Setouchi and Okinawa, according to the company.

Archer and Soracle said they plan to work with the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) to gain the needed certifications. Archer already intended to apply for type certificate from JCAB.

Public flight demonstrations are planned for the World Expo in 2025 to build public support for the air taxi service.

Joby Aviation the other major air taxi service, is also looking at Japan, having recently conducted exhibition flights with Toyota in Japan, that company's first flights outside the U.S.

The flights and showcasing of the Joby electric aerial vehicle (EAV) were at the Toyota Higashi-Fuji Technical Center in Shizuoka.

Toyota has been investing in Joby since 2019 and sharing knowledge of the Toyota systems for planning, manufacturing methods and tooling design.





# **60 Euro branding replacement special with this advert**

**Free removal of old branding**

**Valid December 2023 – February 2024**

Fleet Wraps - Colour Change - Motorsport - Van Graphics  
Safety Signs - Banners - Scaffolding Wraps - Display Products



[www.wrap.ie](http://www.wrap.ie) - [info@wrap.ie](mailto:info@wrap.ie)



[www.insigniasigns.ie](http://www.insigniasigns.ie)

**01 497 7378**

**Unit 47, Block 1, Western Parkway Business Park, Ballymount Drive, D12 EE38**

# Cartels Operating at Taxi Ranks



A Dublin taxi driver has raised the issue of unfair practice and bullying at a number of ranks in Dublin.

**S**peaking to Tacsai magazine, Dublin driver Gerard McGrave said that a number of ranks are operating under an unfair system whereby only taxis registered with a particular company may operate at a particular rank.

One such rank Gerard mentioned was the one at the Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin. At one time the shopping centre rank was operated by Mill cabs. Mill cabs has since been taken over by Lynk Taxi.

"I was up there dropping a fair off and there was about two people there waiting, so I took them and when I came back there was only one taxi on the rank. I came in and this fella more or less boxed me in and said: 'this is only for Mill cabs.' I don't know how they can have a monopoly on a shopping centre?" Gerard asks, adding that the attitude was very intimidating as another two or three drivers had arrived by this time.

He went on to point out that the same thing is happening at the Pavilions shopping centre in Swords.

"It's the same out in the Pavilions shopping centre in Swords. There's a cartel out there that are operating in Swords and they think that only they can operate in Swords. It's been like that for the last two or three years now; that one company can have a monopoly on a public area like a shopping centre. There have been rows going on over the last two or three years at the rank there, because certain taxi drivers think that they're the only ones who are allowed to operate at the shopping centre; that you go in put your name down and get the approval of the management, that's ridiculous," said Gerard.

He went on to say that it is also his belief that it is unfair that the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) are in charge of handing out the permits for drivers to buy and deciding how many taxis can operate there. He pointed out that if there is a crash on the M50 or the M1 the traffic can be gridlocked and taxis are stuck for a long time trying to get back to the airport.

"We don't mind competition; there's about 9 different bus routes going out to the airport, and that's ok, but they all stop about 1am," he said.

Another issue he raised is that of certain hotels giving custom to cab apps whilst drivers are sitting in the rank outside.

"This is a disgrace," he said "Because they're getting a backhander as well. And these are the same hotels that then come out and complain that there's not enough taxis. That's because the companies they're giving business to don't have enough cars.

When asked by Tacsai magazine whether Swords Pavilions operated under a policy of only allowing a particular taxi to operate within their rank; a spokesperson for Swords Pavilions responded saying:

"I am unaware of such an incident but I hope that the said taxi driver has reported the other drivers involved to the Taxi regulator for investigation. As I have no detail on this I can comment no further on this."

Citywest which has only three spots in the rank is another place where these arguments arise says Gerard:

"There's no problem with taxi drivers coming in and getting people home, but when it gets quiet, then they start nitpicking about who is to work and who can't work," he said.

"I live in Blanchardstown and anyone can come up and work that rank; it doesn't matter who you are, what colour you are or where you are from. The same with the one in Donaghmede, so why is it a problem with the Pavilions in Swords, the Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin and Citywest?" said Gerard, pointing out that drivers in Tallagh have to pay €150 a year to use the rank.

He said that with the Christmas season coming up, there are going to be a lot more people out shopping in these places and then there will be uproar because people can't get a taxi and inevitably the drivers will be blamed.



 **High Fees**

 **Cash Work is Free**

Download the Lynk Driver App



**1 WEEK FREE**



# In Conversation With FREENOW's New General Manager - Danny O'Gorman



Danny O'Gorman has recently been appointed the new General Manager at FREENOW Ireland. In a recent conversation with Tacsai Magazine, he discussed his new role, the opportunities and challenges facing the taxi industry and how FREENOW is supporting taxi drivers.

**Q1. Could you tell us about yourself and your vision for FREENOW and the taxi industry?**

I am thrilled to join FREENOW at such a pivotal time for the business in Ireland. My top priority is to work closely with our valued driver partners and the dedicated team at FREENOW Ireland to strengthen our taxi offering in both our established cities and new locations. By expanding our regional footprint, we aim to provide reliable and efficient services to more passengers and businesses nationwide.

**Q2. What opportunities do you see for FREENOW, drivers and the taxi industry more broadly?**

We are confident in the future of the sector, and as a company, we will continue to do everything we can to drive more users to our app, which means more jobs for our partner drivers. For example, we have been working closely with several taxi dispatchers, and we will continue to do so throughout the upcoming year. Our plan is to expand our taxi services further across Ireland while supporting our existing driver partners.





The shift to electric vehicles (EVs) is also a great opportunity for the industry and for drivers. We see a huge appetite for more EV taxis from drivers and passengers, and on average, 13 EVs join our fleet every week. We are committed to supporting the National Transport Authority's (NTA) sustainability goals and their target of 40% of all taxis in Ireland being sustainable by 2030. We have recently partnered with Tesla to offer an exclusive incentive of up to €5,400 off the list price of a Tesla vehicle, making driving an EV even more affordable for our driver partners.

### Q3. What challenges are currently impacting the taxi industry and drivers?

One major challenge our industry faces is the call for deregulation of the taxi industry. FREENOW fully supports the NTA's regulated framework, which ensures high standards among drivers and supports passenger safety and service quality, ultimately ensuring the sustainability of the industry into the future.

We believe industry deregulation would trigger a detrimental outcome for drivers and passengers. A sudden increase in new entrants could impact existing drivers' ability to earn stable and reasonable wages, especially during quieter periods, or prompt them to leave the sector due to growing competition, negatively impacting the quality of service provided to passengers. As Ireland's leading taxi app, we remain committed to supporting our driver partners and collaborating with industry stakeholders, the NTA, policymakers, and drivers to uphold these high standards.

We are also very concerned by reports that thousands of taxi drivers in Ireland may not be able to renew their licence due to tax liability when working with certain taxi app providers. Drivers who accept bookings via the FREENOW app don't have to account for VAT on their fares, but this is not the case with all operators.

If a driver has outstanding VAT, they won't be able to get their tax clearance certs, and without that, they can't renew their taxi licence. FREENOW has called for clear guidance for taxi drivers regarding their VAT liability, but much more needs to be done to ensure this issue doesn't cost taxi drivers their livelihoods.

Last month, we joined with representatives across driver unions and dispatch operators to call on incoming TDs to protect and strengthen Ireland's taxi trade, including a dedicated Garda helpline for taxi drivers, increased support and a requirement that taxi app operators invoice drivers from within Ireland to prevent VAT liability for drivers.

### Q4. How does FREENOW support taxi drivers?

First and foremost, by being the No.1 Taxi App in Ireland we support drivers by giving them access to the largest number of passengers and taxi bookings and offering bonuses during peaks of high demand.

FREENOW offers several initiatives to support our driver partners, such as our Tesla partnership and the FREENOW Taxi Marketplace, a free online platform where drivers can easily rent vehicles by connecting taxi drivers directly with taxi owners. FREENOW Taxi Marketplace aims to make renting a vehicle simpler and more efficient and, most importantly, to remove the barriers to entry for new taxi drivers.

We also launched several new services for passengers to encourage them to choose FREENOW taxis. FREENOW PLUS offers passengers a 10% discount on every taxi journey booked through our app, and our Airport Prebook Promise ensures that passengers are compensated if any pre-booked taxis to Irish airports are delayed or cancelled.

# 2024: A Milestone Year for Uber in Ireland



As 2024 draws to a close, it's hard to deny that it's been the biggest year yet for Uber in Ireland.

**C**elebrating ten years in operation here, Uber has strengthened its relationship with both drivers and riders across the country. Whether it's been growing its reliability in city centres or reaching more and more towns and villages across the country, Uber has had a banner year, and Irish taxi drivers have played a key role in making it all happen.

Marking its decade in Ireland, Uber pulled out all the stops in 2024. Among the highlights of this anniversary celebration was a well-deserved nod to Dublin-based driver James, who has been an exceptional part of the Uber network for ten years. Known for his reliability, professionalism, and friendly demeanour, James was honoured for maintaining a "5-Star Driver" rating for over a decade using the app. Uber's GM said of James,





***“He exemplifies everything our passengers value in drivers- dedication, service, and community spirit.”***

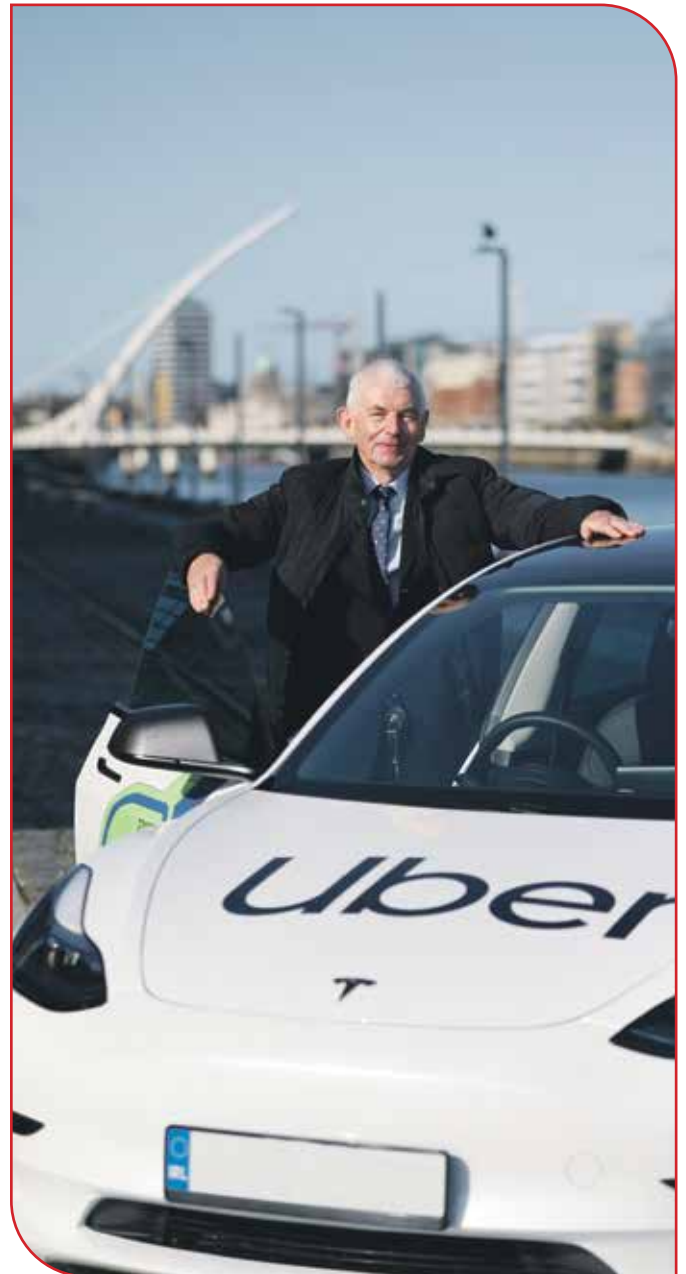
Meanwhile, Uber’s commitment to its customers shone through with their grand giveaway of 10 years of free Uber rides. The lucky winner, Grace from Cork, became an instant Uber celebrity,

Capturing the excitement of passengers and drivers alike. Uber’s free ride giveaway was not only a great way to celebrate a milestone but also a demonstration of their dedication to making transport in Ireland more accessible and affordable.

Uber’s support of para-athletes Róisín Ni Riain and Tiarnán O’Donnell with sponsorship and access to free transport was another highlight of the year. Minister Anne Rabbitte, Minister of State at the Department of Health and at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, recognised this by saying “Support from Uber ensures athletes can focus on their preparation and not be stressing about the likes of transportation and meal services, as well as knowing the inclusive technology Uber is a leader on, which is of such benefit to people with disabilities.”

This year also marked the launch of Taxi Reserve, a new feature that allows riders to pre-book trips to key destinations like airports, train stations, and hotels. For passengers needing to get to their destinations on time, this has been a game-changer. For drivers, it’s meant a boost in demand-particularly for high-frequency routes to airports and train stations. With more passengers feeling assured that their ride is reserved and ready, Taxi Reserve has quickly become a popular feature and a regular source of work for drivers.

Corporate clients, too, are increasingly taking advantage of Uber’s services. Uber 4 Business has expanded significantly this year, with companies like LinkedIn and Penneys joining other Irish businesses in adopting it. By simplifying transport for employees and clients, Uber 4 Business has become a go-to for efficient, accountable business



Dublin Driver James was honoured for maintaining a “5-Star Driver” rating for over a decade.

travel. This partnership is not only a win for Uber but also for drivers who gain access to a steady stream of corporate clients needing reliable rides.

Adding to 2024’s achievements, for the first time in Uber’s history, trips were taken in every county across Ireland. Uber’s reach has expanded significantly, with record numbers of Irish passengers using the service. This growth has been mirrored by an increase in the number of drivers using the platform, ensuring that there are more rides available than ever before. Whether ferrying passengers in bustling cities or connecting the dots in rural areas, drivers are experiencing higher demand and greater job flexibility.

# The all-new Škoda Elroq: The next chapter of electric mobility in the popular compact SUV segment

\* The maximum power is determined in accordance with UN-GTR.21. The maximum power is available when the high-voltage battery is at its highest possible state of charge (SoC) and operating within its optimal temperature range. The power available varies according to the driving scenario and is influenced by factors including the battery's temperature, its SoC, and the physical ageing of the high-voltage battery.

› **Starting from €36,545:** the Elroq enters the Irish market as the most affordable EV in its segment, taking into account its battery size and extensive standard equipment

› **The Elroq is available to order** from Škoda dealers from 7th October, with expected delivery for early orders in April, 2025

› **Škoda Elroq BEV will be more competitively** priced and better specified than the similarly sized, ICE powered Škoda Karoq

› **Driving comfort and sustainability:** the Elroq's interior combines a clean design with up to 1,580 litres of luggage capacity, intuitive connectivity and advanced sustainable materials

› **Extensive standard equipment:** rear-view camera, remote air-conditioning, Crew Protect Assist, Side Assist, 13-inch infotainment screen and SmartLink

Mladá Boleslav, 1 October 2024 – Curtains up for the first of its kind: the all-new Škoda Elroq is the Czech brand's first all-electric model in the strategically important compact SUV category. It is also the first model to adopt Škoda's new Modern Solid design language, combining robustness, functionality and authenticity. The Elroq offers a comprehensive line-up of powertrain and battery options, with a maximum

range of over 560 kilometres. Its extensive standard equipment includes a rearview camera, Crew Protect Assist, Side Assist, 13-inch infotainment and SmartLink. This combination makes the Elroq the most affordable electric vehicle in its segment, with a starting price of €36,545 after rebates and delivery charges are applied. As a result, the Škoda Elroq is priced below, its similarly sized Karoq ICE counterpart in the Škoda portfolio.

Klaus Zellmer, CEO of Škoda Auto, says: "The Škoda Elroq is our first BEV model in the compact SUV class, the fastest-growing and most popular sub-segment in Europe. The Elroq stands out as our first model to adopt the Modern Solid design language, defined by robustness, functionality and new visual accents such as the black Tech Deck Face"

John Donegan, Škoda Ireland Brand Director, says The Škoda Elroq represents a significant breakthrough in the Irish BEV market. Until now, Irish customers have predominantly been limited to larger, more expensive BEV SUV options, with electric models typically priced higher than their ICE counterparts. That dynamic is finally starting to change. The Škoda Elroq BEV will be more competitively priced and better specified than the similarly sized, ICE powered Škoda Karoq. In 2025, for the first time, Škoda SUV customers will enjoy the unique choice of two equally attractive, similarly sized, and comparably priced vehicles—one powered by electricity, the other by combustion. I know which one





I'd choose"

Modern Solid: Tech-Deck Face with a new interpretation of familiar Škoda lines

The exterior of the Elroq is defined by a distinctive shape and clean lines, making it the first Škoda model to adopt the new Modern Solid design language. Looking at traditional Škoda design elements from an entirely new perspective, the glossy black Tech-Deck Face replaces the typical Škoda grille, while still referencing familiar Škoda lines. The new front is also characterised by a robust front bumper with a Unique Dark Chrome insert, while the hallmark Škoda SUV "four eyes" headlights graphic has been completely reinterpreted. The Elroq is also the first model to feature the Škoda lettering on both the bonnet and steering wheel. The Elroq features an exceptionally aerodynamic body, boasting a drag coefficient of just 0.26. This is achieved through a range of innovative design elements, enabling a top speed of 180 km/h.

Wide choice of powertrains, long range and short charging times

The Škoda Elroq is available with three different battery sizes and powertrains. Outputs start at 125 kW for the entry-level Elroq 50 model from €36,545 with a range of 370 kilometres WLTP. Elroq 60 has a range of 440 kilometres and is priced from €38,416. The long range Elroq 85 can achieve a maximum range of more than 560 kilometres on the WLTP cycle and is

priced from €42,315 after rebates and delivery charges are applied. Sportline versions will also be offered from launch. All Elroq versions are rearwheel-drive with an all-wheel drive Elroq 85x planned for the latter half of 2025. Charging rates of up to 175 kW at DC fast-charging stations enable the 82 kWh battery of the Elroq 85 to recharge from 10% to 80% in 28 minutes. The smaller batteries of the Elroq 50 and Elroq 60 can be charged in 25 minutes or less.

Spacious interior with sustainable materials and new Simply Clever ideas

The Elroq provides a generous amount of interior space. This includes the largest boot in its segment with 470 litres of luggage capacity (up to 1,580 litres with the rear seats folded down). A 13" infotainment screen with an even more intuitive user interface comes as standard. The Design Selections use numerous innovative sustainable interior materials. There are also new Simply Clever features, among them clever compartments offering 48 litres of storage capacity and a storage net for the charging cable under the parcel shelf. A wide range of intuitive connectivity features, advanced assistance systems and up to nine airbags ensure superior driving comfort and the highest level of active and passive safety.

The Elroq is available to order from Škoda dealers from 7th October, with expected delivery for early orders in April, 2025.



**BISHOPS CUSTOM EXHAUST CENTRE  
NEWRY ROAD, DUNDALK**

**042 933 8312**

# **PRECISION EXHAUST SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR WHEELCHAIR FLEET**



## **EXPERTS IN EXHAUST, DPF & EGR SOLUTIONS FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES**



# New Honda ZR-V is Dynamic & Intelligent.



Positioned between the smaller HR-V and the larger CR-V in Honda's latest SUV model range, the all-new Honda ZR-V family SUV aims to combine low running costs with sharp handling.

**T**he ZR-V shares much of its technical equipment with the Civic Hybrid, so an engaging driving experience is guaranteed, too. The ZR-V has been designed to appeal to the senses, with its athletic stance and sculpted curves giving it a powerful road presence. An aerodynamic rear spoiler and twin exhausts add a touch of kinetic style, and buyers can choose between five exciting paint colour options with metallic and pearlescent finishes.

## Self-Charging Hybrid Tech.

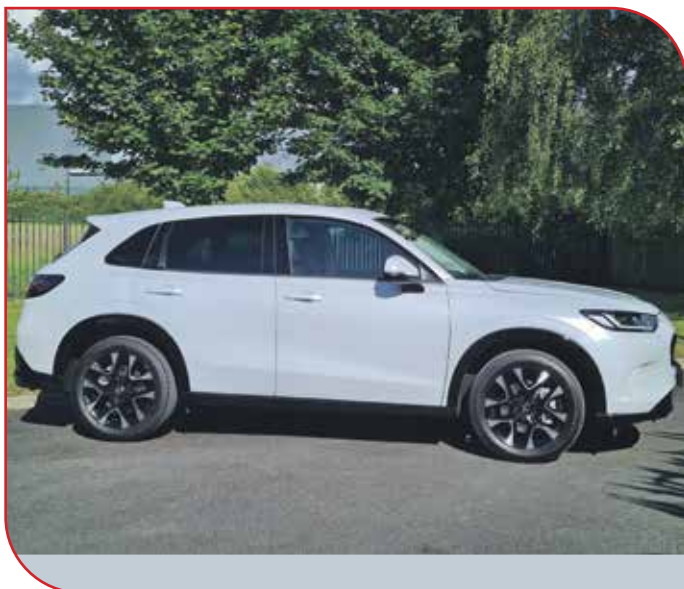
The beating heart of the ZR-V is the advanced e:HEV powertrain (Honda i-MMD) with its three autonomous drive modes: Electric mode provides silent, instant power, Hybrid mode provides sporty responsiveness and long-range potential, while Engine mode engages during sustained higher-speed cruising. The Honda i-MMD Hybrid powertrain delivers a strong immediate response through two electric motors for an exhilarating driving experience. This type of intelligent drive technology will automatically switch seamlessly between electric power at lower speeds and petrol power at higher speeds, when it is most efficient to do so. Adding further to the ZR-V's driving pleasure are selectable drive modes that consist of Normal, Sport, and Econ, along with a Snow mode which changes the cars' set-up to provide the optimum

drive in wintry conditions. The ZR-V uses a combination of electric motors and a 2.0-litre petrol engine to create a combined power output of 181bhp and 315Nm of torque, while a regenerative braking system returns waste energy to top-up the EV battery. The efficient self-charging hybrid system is continually charged by the petrol engine when it is running, so all the driver has to do is fill up with petrol when required.

## Trim Grades & Optional Packs.

The new ZR-V is available with a choice of three generously-equipped trim grades: Elegance, Sport, and range-topping Advance. Buyers looking to individualise their ZR-V can specify an optional Aero Pack, which has been specifically designed to enhance and compliment the dynamic look and feel of the ZR-V, or an optional Robust Pack, which consists of front & rear bumper enhancements in Dusk Grey Metallic, together with running boards and mud flaps.

The ZR-V has an overall length of 4568mm, and measures 1898mm in width (with door mirrors folded), so it comes with a neat turning circle of 11.3m kerb to kerb. As a result the car is easy to manoeuvre into & out of a regular car park space, with the standard-fit front & rear parking sensors, along with a rear-view camera, proving invaluable when executing such a task.



### Stylish, User-Friendly Cabin.

The ZR-V's cabin bears some similarity to that in the latest Civic. The dashboard has the same design featuring a horizontal strip of air vents, with the physical buttons for the climate control getting the thumbs-up from me. The 9.0-inch touchscreen for the infotainment system, with its shortcut buttons and wireless smartphone mirroring, has just the right amount of touch-sensitivity, and is easy to use as a result. The materials used throughout the cabin are of high quality and strong durability, with ample soft-touch material on the doors and in areas where the eye can see, while the sculpted centre console has practical storage underneath. There is a sufficient amount of seat and steering wheel adjustment options available, so drivers can choose a car-like driving position, or a more upright SUV-like position to suit their own driving style. The rear cabin space is generous, with an excellent amount of leg and head room for up to 3 occupants, with the middle-seat rear passenger benefitting from a very shallow centre tunnel. Boot capacity in the ZR-V measures in at 370-litres with the rear seats in place, but this increases to a generous 1,322-litres when the rear seat backs are folded down. Additionally, the boot is easy to access thanks to the hands-free power tailgate.

### Advanced Safety & Connectivity Features.

In terms of safety, the ZR-V comes with Honda SENSING as standard. This intelligent suite of advanced safety features provides assistance as you drive, and it consists of Collision Mitigation Braking System, Lane Departure Warning, Road Departure Mitigation, Lane Keeping Assist, and Adaptive Cruise Control with Low-Speed Following. Also standard is the latest-generation Honda CONNECT infotainment system, with smartphone integration via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto which is accessed via a centrally mounted 9" touchscreen that also includes satellite navigation and a DAB digital radio.

### Car on Review.

My ZR-V e:HEV Advance review car looked particularly striking in its Platinum White Pearlescent paint finish with contrasting gloss black trim around the wheel arches, door sills and on the bumpers too. In addition to an extensive list of standard features in Elegance and Sport trim grades, exclusive Advance features include black leather upholstery, heated front & rear seats, heated steering wheel, Bose Premium Audio with 12 speakers, 18" alloy wheels with a gloss black and diamond cut finish, and a panoramic glass roof. The experience of driving a Honda Hybrid is unique, as there is nothing quite like the calm and serene feeling of gently starting every journey in electric mode. Then, when the petrol engine comes to life, the transition is quiet and smooth. In Advance trim, the ZR-V can accelerate from 0-100km/h in just 8.0-seconds, with Elegance and Sport trim variants capable of completing the same task in 7.8 and 7.9-seconds respectively. With a 57-litre fuel tank, and an official WLTP fuel consumption figure of 5.8l/100km on a combined driving cycle, it is possible to potentially achieve up to 980kms between fuel station visits. The ZR-V's keen handling characteristics, responsive steering and minimal body roll through corners make it a joy to drive on a twisty back road, but it is also a relaxing motorway cruiser too. The suspension is adequately firm and nicely damped, giving it a composed consistency that adds to the cars' overall driving dynamics.

### Conclusion & Price.

The all-new Honda ZR-V e:HEV is a very worthwhile addition to Honda's SUV model line-up, and it excels in areas such as ride, handling, comfort, infotainment, performance and fuel efficiency. Pricing starts at €54,995 for the ZR-V Elegance, with my review car specification priced from €59,995.



- ☐ Queuing at Rank
- ☒ Money in the Bank

Download the Lynk Driver App



**1 WEEK FREE**



# Let me ask you a question...

**Are you a Taxi driver or an insurance worker?**

**Taxi driver, of course.**

**Aren't you just fed up of doing your insurance companies work for them?**

**Well, I always have to call twice to get a lower price**

**Not with TaxiFair. We always offer our best price, first time**

**That's why over 92.5% of policies have renewed with TaxiFair in 2023.**

Data collated from all TaxiFair renewals offered with an effective date between 1st January 2023 and 31st May 2023



TaxiFair Insurances Limited T/A TaxiFair Insurances  
is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland