

Switched on Taxis Loan 2024/25

Eligibility Criteria

The Switched on Taxis Loan is funded by Transport Scotland and managed by Energy Saving Trust (EST). The scheme is open to operators and owners of hackney cabs, and to non-purpose-built taxi vehicle drivers (Also commonly known as private hire), in Scotland.

After receiving an offer, you must be able to submit an invoice and claim your funds by the expiry date of your loan offer **OR** by Sunday 9 February 2025, whichever date comes first.

To be eligible, you must meet the criteria in Sections A and B or C.

- Section A - general criteria
- Section B – **additional criteria** for **new** vehicle(s).
- Section C – **additional criteria** for **used** vehicle(s).

SECTION A – GENERAL CRITERIA

- You or your organisation must:
 - become the named owner of the vehicle;
 - be trading or operational for at least 12 months;
 - have owned your current vehicle for **at least 6 months** before applying;
 - not receive any other Scottish Government grants or loans towards the purchase of the vehicle;
 - be based in Scotland or be able to demonstrate your organisation currently and actively operates in Scotland.
- Subject to the availability of funds, multiple applications can be made, but an organisation **cannot** borrow (or have borrowed) more than £75,000 from **any** of EST's business transport loans at any time.

- If an applicant has an outstanding or previous loan, and is applying for a new loan, EST will assess the repayment history relating to all historic loans before making a decision.
- The loan value covers basic, standard-specification costs of the vehicle(s); we **cannot** cover delivery costs or optional extras.
- Except for an initial deposit, you must not purchase or take ownership of the vehicle(s) prior to receipt of the loan offer. Your application will be rejected if you fail to comply.
- Applications must be submitted with:
 - your organisation's bank statement within the last three months;
 - all pages of your V5 registration certificate;
 - your taxi licence with photo ID;
 - if you are **applying as sole trader**, your most recent tax document SA103/SA100;
 - if you are **applying as a partnership**, your most recent tax document SA800.
- Applications are to be completed and returned, with supporting documentation, by you. Third party submissions are not accepted, unless otherwise agreed by us.
- If you are applying as a limited company, partnership or charitable trust, your organisation must have the power to enter into a loan agreement with us.
- You must be able to repay the loan and a credit check is required to submit your application. This means you or your organisation's credit report will be searched and supplied to us by credit reference agencies.
- The maximum repayment period is six years; however, if we determine a shorter repayment period is appropriate, then your loan agreement will change and this will be communicated with you.
- Our loans cannot be used to pay off another finance or loan agreement. You must indicate how you are paying for the rest of the vehicle(s), if not fully covered by the funding from our loan. More information is provided in the application form.
- **Public subsidy statement:**
 - The loan is being provided in accordance with the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy within the meaning of section 36(1) of the Subsidy

Control Act 2022 (SCA). The requirements of the SCA do not apply to an MFA subsidy if the total amount of MFA or comparable types of small subsidy (see section 42(8) of the SCA) received by an enterprise [or its group companies] within the applicable period does not exceed £315,000 over the applicable period. In other words, MFA or comparable types of small subsidy received by an enterprise within the applicable period cumulate, and where they total more than £315,000 during that period, the enterprise will not be eligible for further such subsidies and any further subsidies to the enterprise will not benefit from the MFA exemption.

- To confirm you as the applicant are eligible to receive this assistance you must declare the full amount of any MFA or comparable types of subsidies that you, your business and its group companies have received in the applicable period and any outstanding applications for such subsidies.
- Before any payment, you will be required to provide written confirmation that the total cumulative amount of MFA received in the applicable period, including the loan from EST, will not exceed £315,000. We will notify you when that confirmation is required.

SECTION B – NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE

In **addition to** the criteria in Section A, the below applies to you if you are seeking funds for a **new** electric vehicle.

- For a new **purpose-built electric black cab** driven for public hire (hackney cab):
 - The maximum loan amount available to you for **one** new purpose-built electric black cab is **£75,000**
 - The new vehicle is listed as eligible on the [UK OZEV Plug-in Grant list](#).
 - You can also purchase a new electric wheelchair accessible vehicle (eWAV) with a maximum loan amount of **£40,000**
 - Applications **must be** submitted with:
 - quote(s)
- For a new **non-purpose-built electric taxi vehicle** driven for public or private hire:

- You can purchase one of the following **new** vehicles, VAT included:
 - new electric cars (**must** cost £50,000 or less) Max loan amount £30,000
 - new electric vans (**must** cost £50,000 or less) Max loan amount £35,000
- The loan can support the purchase of an electric ex-demonstrator, only if the vehicle has under 1,000 miles and is less than 6 months old.
- Applications **must be** submitted with:
 - quote(s)

● SECTION C – USED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

In **addition to** the criteria in Section A, the below applies to you if you are seeking funds for a **used** electric vehicle.

- The used vehicle(s) must be purchased from a dealership. We may determine your chosen dealership is not acceptable, and if so, will inform you. **Your application may be delayed until you can identify an acceptable dealership.** The dealerships we accept are as follows:
 - A traditional brick and mortar dealership based in the UK where their sales are conducted in-person, as well as through their online platforms. This dealership must be accredited by the [Motor Ombudsman](#) or be part of a trade association signed up to the National Conciliation Service ([National Franchised Dealers Association](#), [Independent Garage Association/Trust My Garage](#), [Scottish Motor Trade Association](#), [National Motorcycle Dealers Association](#), [Motorcycle Industry Association](#), [Retail Motor Industry Federation](#)).
 - A dealership operating solely online. This dealership must transparently outline the vehicle's age, battery capacity, mileage and the interior and exterior condition of the vehicle on any sale document provided.
- For a **used purpose-built electric black cab** driven for public hire (hackney cab):
 - The maximum loan amount available to you for **one** used purpose-built electric black cab is **£50,000**
 - You can also purchase a used electric wheelchair accessible vehicle (eWAV) with a maximum loan amount of **£35,000**

- The vehicle is listed as eligible on the UK OZEV Plug-in Grant list.
- For a **used non-purpose-built electric taxi** vehicle driven for public or private hire:
 - You can purchase one of the following **used** vehicles, VAT included:
 - used electric cars (**must** cost £30,000 or less) Max loan amount £30,000
 - used electric vans (**must** cost £30,000 or less) Max loan amount £30,000
- The loan can support the purchase of an electric ex-demonstrator, only if the vehicle has under 1,000 miles and is less than 6 months old.