

APPLICANT WEBINAR FOR SMALL OPERATORS

Accessible Information Grant

Eligibility and how to apply

Wednesday 28 October 2026 · 12:00–13:00 · Tim Rivett, Dave Rawding, RTiG

TODAY

Agenda

- 1 Why the grant exists: the regulations
- 2 Who can apply: operators and vehicles
- 3 What the grant pays for, and priority areas
- 4 How to apply, section by section
- 5 After you submit: checks, award and claims
- 6 Your questions

Housekeeping

Please stay on mute.

Put questions in the chat at any time. We'll answer them at the end.

Slides and links will be shared after the session.

THE REGULATIONS

What the Accessible Information Regulations require

Audible and visible, on board

- Route and direction
- Each upcoming stop
- Final stop reached
- Start of a diversion
- Hail-and-ride sections

Includes a hearing loop and minimum text sizes.

Vehicle first used	Must comply from
On or after 1 Oct 2019	1 October 2024
1 Oct 2014 to 30 Sep 2019	1 October 2025
1 Jan 1973 to 30 Sep 2014	1 October 2026

Out of scope: vehicles for 16 or fewer passengers, closed home-to-school services, and non-local services (stops 15+ miles apart).

SINCE 1 OCTOBER 2026

Every in-scope vehicle on a local service must now comply.

The grant helps the smallest operators close the gap: the equipment, the fitting and the first year's maintenance.

THE GRANT

The Accessible Information Grant at a glance

Who runs it

Funded by the Department for Transport.

Managed by RTIG Inform on DfT's behalf.

When

Open since 22 October 2026.

Stays open until the grant is fully committed.

How it's allocated

Priority areas first, until 31 December 2026.

Then first come, first approved, until funds run out.

Apply early. Your place depends on when your application clears our checks, not just when you submit it.

Your organisation must meet all five tests

- 1** **Runs a local service vehicle** in England, Scotland or Wales on 1 October 2026.
- 2** **20 or fewer vehicles:** operator licences for no more than 20.
- 3** **Not linked to a larger operator:** not a subsidiary or sister company of an operator with 21+ PSVs.
- 4** **Applies directly:** the application comes from the operator itself.
- 5** **No DfT transferable equipment grant:** no active application or award.

ELIGIBILITY · THE VEHICLES

Up to 20 vehicles, each meeting every test

- ✓ Category **M2 or M3** passenger vehicle
- ✓ Used on **local bus services** or **rail replacement**
- ✓ Designed for **17 or more seated** passengers
- ✓ Doesn't already give **both** audible and visible next stop, route or direction
- ✓ All of this was true on **1 October 2026**

Partly equipped already?

You can apply for just the missing parts, for example a hearing loop or audio announcements where screens are already fitted.

You don't have to include your whole fleet.

Would these applications qualify?

Scenario	Eligible?	Why
14 coaches, 49 seats, on rail replacement	Yes, all 14	Meets every test
18 vehicles, 6 of them 16-seat minibuses	Partly, 12	Minibuses under 17 seats
12 vehicles; sister firm runs 30 PSVs	No	Linked to a 21+ PSV operator
Screens fitted, no audio or hearing loop	Yes, missing items	Partly compliant can apply
Applied to DfT transferable AV grant	No	Can't hold both grants
Supplier offers to apply for you	No	Operator must apply directly
Vehicle joined the fleet in November 2026	No	Must qualify on 1 Oct 2026

WHAT'S FUNDED

What the grant will and won't pay for

The grant pays for

- Audible speakers and hearing loops
- Visual display screens
- Supporting infrastructure
- Procurement and installation
- Maintenance for one year from installation
- Missing elements on partly compliant vehicles

You pay for

- Any upgrade above the minimum specification the regulations need - e.g. **TFT**
- VAT you can reclaim
- Items in the quote the grant can't cover
- Maintenance after year one

Upgrading? Ask your supplier for a quote showing the base cost and the upgrade separately. We benchmark base costs against similar vehicles.

PRIORITY AREAS

Prioritised until 31 December 2026

Wales

- Anglesey
- Conwy
- Powys
- Bridgend
- Blaenau Gwent
- Caerphilly
- Vale of Glamorgan

Scotland

- Renfrewshire
- Inverclyde
- Ayrshire
- Midlothian
- Highland
- Moray

England

- Lancashire
- Lincolnshire
- North Lincolnshire
- North East Lincolnshire
- Cumbria

From January 2027, all remaining applications are approved in order until funds run out.

Outside these areas? Apply now anyway.

Priority is set by when an application completes due diligence, not when it is submitted.

HOW TO APPLY

Five steps, all online

- 1 Create a GOV.UK One Login**

If you don't already have one. It's how you sign in to Find a Grant.
- 2 Start on Find a Grant**

Use the "Apply" link on rtig.org.uk/aig/apply so you reach the right scheme.
- 3 Due-diligence questions**

Your organisation's legal details, amount needed and areas.
- 4 RTIG application questions**

Operator, operating areas, supplier, vehicles and costs.
- 5 Upload three documents**

Supplier quote(s), grant claim form, subsidy self-certification.

BEFORE YOU START

Have these ready

About your business

- Legal name and organisation type
- Companies House or Charity number
- Registered address
- PSV operator licence numbers
- National Operator Codes (if you use BODS)
- Total fleet and number in scope
- Bank details and a recent statement

About the project

- Local authority areas you operate in
- Registration marks of each vehicle
- Count by vehicle type
- Supplier quote(s): every page, readable
- All amounts excluding VAT
- Completed grant claim form
- Completed subsidy self certification form
- The grant agreement, *read in full* (signed later)

STEP 3 · FIND A GRANT

Due-diligence questions

Organisation legal name

Organisation type, e.g. limited company

Address registered with Companies House

Charity Commission number, if any

Companies House number, if any

Amount of funding required, excluding VAT

Operational areas where it will be spent

Tips

Use your exact legal name, as on Companies House and your bank account.

Address inconsistencies need explaining

The amount here must match the amount in your application and on the claim form.

Sole trader or partnership? Leave the number fields blank.

STEP 4 · APPLICATION QUESTIONS, PART 1

Operator details and operating areas

Question	What we need
Operator name	As shown on your PSV operator licence
PSV licence numbers	Every licence the funded vehicles run under
National Operator Codes	Only if you submit data to the Bus Open Data Service
Vehicles in your fleet	The total, across all your licences
Vehicles in scope	How many the regulations apply to
Local bus areas	Local authorities where the vehicles run registered services
Rail replacement areas	Local authorities where you run rail replacement

Your answers to the area questions decide whether you count as a priority area.

Your supplier and quote

Proposed supplier

Name and contact details of each company providing equipment, installation and year-one maintenance.

Value of the quote

Total cost of equipment, installation and year-one maintenance, excluding VAT.

Quote document

Upload every page. A scan or photo is fine if all of it is easy to read.

A good quote

Lists equipment, installation and year-one maintenance separately. Shows any upgrade above minimum specification separately. Shows VAT on its own line.

The grant and the vehicles

Question	What we need
Transferable equipment grant	Any live application to or award from DfT's transferable AV grant? If yes, you can't apply.
Number of vehicles	How many you'll equip; can be fewer than your in-scope fleet
Registration marks	One for each vehicle, matching the number above
Vehicle types	Single or double deck buses and coaches, or other
Amount of grant	Excluding VAT; may be less than the quote
Summary of equipment	Type and spec of equipment, installation and maintenance

STEP 5 · UPLOADS

The two supporting forms

Grant claim form

Complete now: organisation and contact details, remittance contact, amount (excl. VAT), VAT status, bank details and two authorised signatories.

Must match your application answers.

Subsidy self-certification

The grant is **Minimal Financial Assistance** under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

List all public subsidies in 2024/25 to 2026/27, including linked companies and retail relief.

Total with this grant must not exceed **£315,000**. Sign the declaration.

Do not return the agreement – we send it out to you when you are approved

RIGHT FIRST TIME

Seven things that slow an application down

Amounts don't match

Same figure in Find a Grant, the application and the claim form.

VAT included

Give every amount excluding reclaimable VAT.

Unreadable quote

Missing pages, blurred photos or no cost breakdown.

Upgrade not split

Higher-spec kit without the base cost shown separately.

Vehicle details

Missing registrations, or vehicles that aren't in scope.

Names don't line up

O-licence, company record and bank account differ.

Addresses don't match

O-licence, company record and coresopondance differ.

Not sure? Email aig@rtig.org.uk before you submit.

VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

What our assessors look for

The operator

Licences and fleet size against public records. Company links to larger operators.

The vehicles

In scope, in local service on 1 October 2026, and not already compliant.

The costs

Request matches the quote. Base costs benchmarked against similar vehicles.

The paperwork

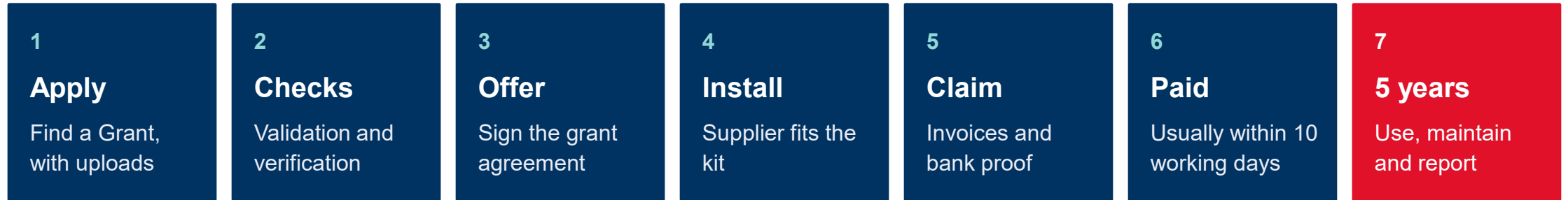
Forms complete, signed and consistent. Subsidy total within the limit.



Need more information? We'll email you from aig@rtig.org.uk. Reply quickly: your priority starts when checks are complete.

AFTER YOU SUBMIT

From application to payment



Steps 2 and 3 decide your place in the queue. Steps 4 to 7 are set out in the grant agreement you sign.

GETTING PAID

Claiming your grant

- 1 Complete the declaration and amount claimed on the claim form
- 2 Attach invoices covering the full amount claimed
- 3 Add a recent bank statement or bank-issued proof of account
- 4 Paid by bank transfer, normally within **10 working days**

Good to know

Grants are normally paid in arrears.

Online banking screenshots must show account name, number and sort code together.

Costs changed since your offer? Talk to us first.

THE GRANT AGREEMENT

What you commit to for five years



Keep it working

Prompt repairs and data updates.
Compliant information on every scheduled journey.



Keep it in use

Five years from installation. Move it
between vehicles at your cost if needed.



Show it's funded

An onboard notice crediting DfT and
RTIG, with the "Funded by UK
Government" logo.



Prove it

Annual proof of use. Access to vehicles
for inspection on request.



Keep records

Invoices and evidence for two years after
the grant period.



Or repay

Breaches, double funding or misleading
information can mean repayment.

SUMMARY

Key dates and where to get help

22 Oct 2026	Applications opened
31 Dec 2026	Priority areas prioritised until this date
From Jan 2027	All remaining applications, until funds run out
17 Nov 2026	Next webinar, 12:00–13:00
19 Nov 2026	Final webinar, 13:00–14:00

Get in touch

FORMS AND GUIDANCE

rtig.org.uk/aig/apply

GRANT QUESTIONS

aig@rtig.org.uk

PHONE

03330 341 712

Your questions

Put them in the chat. After today: aig@rtig.org.uk

rtig.org.uk/aig/apply