

Office of the District Magistrate f'Patna, fl-istat ta' Bihar, l-Indja, qiegħda tkun speċifikata bhala adozzjoni bejn pajjiż u ieħor tal-persuna hemmhekk imsemmija u dan ai termini tal-Artikoli 113, 130 u 130A tal-Kodiċi Civili.

(IFF.) AV. JONATHAN ATTARD
Ministru għall-Ġustizzja u r-Riforma
tas-Settur tal-Kostruzzjoni

Id-19 ta' April, 2024

Nru. 518**MINISTERU GĦALL-FINANZI****Għotja fuq Xiri ta' Apparat Speċjali għall-użu minn Persuni b'Diżabilità**

B'REFERENZA għan-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern numru 1391, ippublikata fil-Gazetta tal-Gvern numru 20,290, tal-5 ta' Novembru 2019, u n-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern sussegwenti Nru. 401 ippublikata fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern Nru. 20,839 tad-19 ta' April, 2022, l-iskema ta' għotja 'Għotja fuq Xiri ta' Apparat Speċjali għall-użu minn Persuni b'Diżabilità' qed tiġi emendata kif ġej.

Sabiex il-Gvern jassisti lill-persuni b'diżabilità li jkollhom il-bżonn li jixtru apparat speċjali sabiex ikomplu fil-hajja tagħhom, il-Ministru għall-Finanzi nieda din l-iskema.

1. Tifsir

F'din l-iskema, kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma teħtieġ xorta oħra:

'applikant' tfisser persuna residenti f'Malta u li hija rreġistrata bhala persuna b'diżabilità mal-Kummissjoni għad-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità, jew xi persuna jew entità oħra f'isem persuna b'diżabilità li hija rreġistrata bhala persuna b'diżabilità mal-Kummissjoni għad-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità;

'applikazzjoni' tfisser l-applikazzjoni li ssir għall-għotja taħt din l-iskema;

'data effettiva' tfisser l-1 ta' Jannar, 2020;

'Malta' tfisser il-gżejjer ta' Malta;

'persuna' tfisser persuna fiżika u ma tinkludix xi entità organizzativa;

'persuna residenti f'Malta' tfisser persuna fiżika li jkollha dokument ta' identifikazzjoni legalment maħruġ skont l-Att dwar il-Karta tal-Identità u Dokumenti Oħra tal-Identità

of the District Magistrate, Patna, Bihar State, India, is being specified as an adoption of the person therein mentioned for the purposes of Articles 113, 130 and 130A of the Civil Code.

(Sgd) DR JONATHAN ATTARD
Minister for Justice and Reform of the
Construction Sector

19th April, 2024

No. 518**MINISTRY FOR FINANCE****Grant on the Purchase of Special Equipment for use by Persons with Disability**

WITH reference to Government Notice number 1391, that was published on the 5th November, 2019 in Government Gazette number 20,290, and the subsequent Government Notice No. 401 published in Government Gazette No. 20,839 of the 19th April, 2022, this grant scheme 'Grant on the Purchase of Special Equipment for use by Persons with Disability' is being amended as follows.

In order for the Government to assist persons with disability that need to purchase special equipment required to live an independent life, the Ministry for Finance issued the following scheme.

1. Interpretation

In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires:

'applicant' means any person who is a resident in Malta and who is registered as a person with disability with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, or any other person or entity applying in the name of a disabled person who is registered as disabled with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability;

'application' means the application made for a grant under this scheme;

'effective date' means the 1st January, 2020;

'Malta' means the islands of Malta;

'person' means a natural person and does not include any organisational entity;

'person residing in Malta' means a natural person who holds a legally valid identification document issued in terms of the Identity Card and Other Documents Act (Cap. 258)

(Kap. 258) jew li jkollha permess ta' residenza jew dokument ekwivalenti maħruġ minn awtorità nazzjonali kompetenti;

'entità' tfisser organizzazzjoni li hija rreġistrata bħala Organizzazzjoni mhux Governattiva mal-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju għall-Għaqdiet Volontarji;

'rċevuta fiskali' tfisser rċevuta kif imfissra fit-Tlettax-il Skeda tal-Att dwar it-Taxxa fuq il-Valur Miżjud (Kap. 406), kif sussegwentament emendat, u tinkludi kull regolament magħmul taħt l-istess Att;

'apparat speċjali' ifisser kwalunkwe apparat li hu inkluz fl-iskeda (A) anesssa ma' din in-notifikazzjoni u li hu intiż għall-użu ta' persuni b'diżabilità u li bihom jitjeb il-livell tal-ħajja u indipendenza tal-persuni b'diżabilità;

'valur tax-xiri tal-apparat' ifisser il-valur aħħari tax-xiri tal-apparat komplut, inkluz il-VAT, u liema valur tal-apparat ikun thallas kollu mill-applikant qabel japplika għal din l-għotja.

2. Applikabilità

Din l-iskema tapplika għall-infiq li jsir fuq il-valur tax-xiri tal-apparat speċjali mill-applikant, liema apparat ikun inxtara mill-applikant fid-data effettiva jew wara, matul it-terminu ta' din l-iskema.

3. L-infiq li għandu jiġi rrapportat

L-infiq li għandu jiġi rrapportat huwa dwar il-valur tax-xiri tal-apparat speċjali biex jintuża esklussivament minn persuni b'diżabilità u kif huwa deskritt fil-paragrafu 1 hawn fuq.

4. Kif wiehed japplika u dokumenti li għandhom jiġu pprovduti

(i) Applikazzjonijiet taħt din l-iskema għandhom isiru permezz tal-portal elettroniku uffiċjali jew billi żżur wiehed miċ-ċentri tas-Servizz.gov f'Malta jew l-Amministrazzjoni tat-Taxxa u d-Dwana (Uffiċċju ta' Għawdex) f'Għawdex, li jinstab f' Tigrja Palazz, Livell 1, Triq ir-Repubblika, ir-Rabat, Għawdex

(ii) L-applikant għandu jagħti d-dettalji tal-fatturi/l-irċevuti fiskali u kull dokumentazzjoni oħra meħtieġa hekk kif meħtieġ fuq il-portal indikat. Izda, l-irċevuti fiskali oriġinali/fatturi u dokumentazzjoni rilevanti għandhom jinżammu mill-applikant għal perjodu ta' mhux anqas minn sentejn mid-data tal-applikazzjoni u jiġu preżentati lill-Amministrazzjoni tat-Taxxa u d-Dwana meta mitluba għal skop ta' verifika.

F'każ fejn d-dokumenti ma jiġux preżentati meta mitluba l-applikant ikun obligat li jirrifondi l-ammont li jkun ingħata

or who has a residence permit or equivalent documentation issued by a competent authority;

'entity' means an organisation that is registered as a Non-Governmental Organisation with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations;

'fiscal receipt' means a receipt as defined in the Thirteenth Schedule to the Value Added Tax (Chap. 406), as subsequently amended, and also includes any regulation made under the same Act;

'special equipment' means any type of equipment that is included in schedule (A) that is annexed to this notice and that is intended for the use of persons with disability and specifically aimed to improve their level of life and independence;

'purchase price of the equipment' means the total purchase price of the complete equipment including VAT and which purchase price has been paid in full by the applicant prior to applying for this grant.

2. Area of applicability

This scheme applies to the expenditure that is incurred on the purchase price of the special equipment by the applicant, and which equipment is purchased by the applicant on the effective date or afterwards during the duration of this scheme.

3. Expenditure to be reported

The expenditure to be reported is in respect of the purchase price of the special equipment as defined in paragraph 1 above.

4. Manner of application and supporting documents

(i) Applications under this scheme shall be made via the official electronic portal or by visiting a Servizz.gov hub in Malta or the Office of the Malta Tax and Customs Administration (Gozo Office) in Gozo at Tigrja Palazz, Level 1, Republic Street, Victoria, Gozo

(ii) The applicant shall furnish the details of the invoices/fiscal receipts and any further documentation required to be submitted as required on the indicated portal. Provided that, the original fiscal receipts/invoices and relevant documentation shall be kept by the applicant for a period of not less than two years from the date of application and produced upon request to the Malta Tax and Customs Administration for verification purposes.

Failure to produce any such documents upon request the applicant will be obliged to refund the amount paid under the

taħt l-iskema u f'każ ta' applikazzjoni frawdolenti tittiehed azzjoni kriminali kontrih skont il-Kodiċi Kriminali (Kap 9).

(iii) Fil-każ ta' apparat speċjali mhux mixtri minn Malta jkun meħtieġ li dawn id-dokumenti kif ġej jinżammu mill-applikant għall perjodu kif indikat iktar il-fuq. Id-dokumenti meħtieġa huma fattura oriġinali maħruġa mill-fornitur tal-apparat speċjali flimkien mad-*delivery note*, id-dokument oriġinali li jikkonferma li l-hlas komplet sar, u fejn ikun meħtieġ, awtorizzazzjoni mill-Maltapost/Dipartiment tad-Dwana ta' Malta. Dawn id-dokumenti jridu jikkonfermaw li l-apparat speċjali verament inxtara; li l-valur tax-xiri tal-apparat speċjali tħallas kollu flimkien mad-dazju u VAT dovut fuqu kif ikun meħtieġ; li dan ix-xiri jkun sar mix-xerrej għall-applikant; u li l-apparat speċjali ġie kkunsinnat fir-residenza tal-applikant jew tal-persuna b'diżabilità li għaliha tkun saret l-applikazzjoni. Barra minn hekk fejn ikun meħtieġ l-apparat speċjali mixtri jrid ikollu ċertifikat li jattesta l-konformità mal-istandards tas-saħħa u s-sigurtà tal-UE;

(iv) Ikunu jikkwalifikaw biss għall-ghotja msemmiha fil-paragrafu 5 ta' din l-iskema dawk l-applikazzjonijiet li jkunu jkkonformaw mad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' din l-iskema.

(v) Applikazzjonijiet taħt din l-iskema għandhom jigu sottomessi, mhux aktar tard minn *sitt xhur* mid-data tax-xiri tal-apparat speċjali.

Applikazzjonijiet sottometti 'tard', jiġifieri wara dawn is-sitt xhur, jiġu kkunsidrati bħala applikazzjonijiet invalidi.

5. Għotja li tiffallas taħt din l-iskema

(a) Applikanti li jikkwalifikaw jistgħu japplikaw għall-ghotja ta' mhux aktar minn 4.5% fuq il-valur tax-xiri ta' apparat speċjali mnizżel fuq l-ewwel parti tal-iskeda (A) u ta' mhux aktar minn 17.5% fuq il-valur tax-xiri ta' apparat speċjali mnizżel fuq it-tieni parti tal-iskeda (A) u sa għotja ta' limitu massimu ta' €1,000.

(b) Dawn il-livelli massimi ser ikunu applikabbli għal perjodu ta' hames snin minn meta l-individwu jkun ibbenefika mill-ewwel għotja. Għalhekk individwu jista' japplika diversi drabi għal din l-iskema ta' għotja iżda ma jistax jeċċedi l-ammont kumulattiv tal-ghotja/ghotjiet b'iktar mill-livell massimu indikat. Dan jibqa' japplika għal perjodu ta' hames snin.

(c) Fil-każ ta' persuni li diġà bbenefikaw mill-ghotja tal-iskema preċedenti relatati max-xiri ta' Apparati Speċjali għall-użu minn Persuni b'Diżabilità, il-kundizzjonijiet applikabbli taħt il-klawżola 5 tal-iskema ta' għotja maħruġa skont in-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern numru 951, li ġiet ippubblikata fl-1 ta' Settembru, 2017 fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern numru 19,587, u sussegwentement emendata bin-Notifikazzjoni

scheme and in the case of a fraudulent application criminal action in terms of the Criminal Code (Cap 9) will be taken against him.

(iii) In the case of special equipment not purchased from Malta the original invoice issued by the supplier indicating the type of special equipment purchased, together with the delivery note, the original documentary proof that final payment has been effected, and clearance from Maltapost/ Department of Customs Malta as may be required, must be retained by the applicant for a period as stipulated above. These documents must confirm that the special equipment was really purchased; that the purchase price of the special equipment which price includes duty and VAT as may be required was really paid in full; that such a purchase was effected by the purchaser for the applicant; and that the special equipment was delivered to the applicant's residence or to the residence of the person with disability for whom the application would have been made. The special equipment must also have a certificate of conformity with EU standard safety regulations, as may be required;

(iv) Only those applications that are found to conform with the provisions of this scheme shall be eligible for payment of the grant referred to in paragraph 5 of this scheme.

(v) Applications under this scheme should be submitted by not later than *six months* from the purchase of the special equipment.

Applications submitted 'late', that is after the six month period, shall be deemed to be invalid applications.

5. Grant payable under this scheme

(a) Eligible applicants may apply for a grant of not more than 4.5% on the purchase price of the special equipment as listed in part one of schedule (A) and for a grant of not more than 17.5% on the purchase price of the special equipment as listed in part two of schedule (A), subject to a maximum capping of €1,000.

(b) This capping will be applicable for a five year period from when the individual would have benefitted from the first grant. Therefore an individual is able to apply multiple times for this grant scheme but the cumulative amount of the grant/s received cannot be more than the indicated maximum capping. This will apply for a period of five years.

(c) In case of persons who have already benefited from the grant of the previous scheme related to the purchase of special equipment for use by persons with disability, applicable conditions under clause 5 of the grant scheme issued in terms of Government Notice number 951, that was published on the 1st September 2017 in Government Gazette number 19,587, and as subsequently amended by Government Notice number

tal-Gvern numru 164, li giet ppubblikata fid-9 ta' Frar, 2018 fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern numru 19,946, se jibqgħu fis-seħħ fit-termini u l-kundizzjonijiet tagħhom u jibqgħu jkunu effettivi u vinkolanti, soġġett li l-limitu massimu se jkun ta' €1,000. Dan il-limitu massimu se jkun applikabbli għal perjodu ta' hames snin minn meta l-individwu jkun ibbenefika mill-ewwel għotja u l-ammont kumulattiv tal-għotja/għotjiet ma jstax ikun aktar mill-limitu massimu indikat anki jekk din inkisbet bis-saħħa tal-għotja imsemmija ppubblikati min-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern numru 951 u sussegwentement emendata bin-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern 164.

6. Hlas tal-għotja

L-għotja tiffhallas lill-applikant, jew lill-ġenitur/i/ kustodju/i legali fil-każ ta' applikant minuri taht is-sittax il sena, permezz ta' kreditu dirett fil-kont bankarju indikat fl-applikazzjoni.

7. Validità tal-applikazzjoni

Applikazzjoni ma tkunx meqjusa valida jekk:

(a) ma tkunx shiħa u dettaljata f'kull aspett materjali tagħha;

(b) ma jkollhiex inkluzi magħha d-dettalji kollha rilevanti;

(c) ma tkunx sottomessa -fi zmien sitt xhur mid-data tax-xiri tal-apparat speċjali kif stipulat fil-paragrafu 4 ta' din l-iskema.

8. Tul tal-iskema

Din l-iskema tibqa' fis-seħħ għal zmien indefinit mid-data effettiva, sakemm il-Ministru għall-Finanzi jagħżel li jimmodifikaha/ jiterminaha permezz ta' avviż li jkun ippubblikat fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern.

9. Emendi għall-iskema

Il-Ministru għall-Finanzi jzomm id-dritt li jagħmel kull tibdil f'din l-iskema bil-pubblikazzjoni ta' dak it-tibdil fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern.

SKEDI

Skeda A – Lista ta' Apparat Speċjali Eligibbli

Skeda A

L-Ewwel Parti

Amplifiers għall-apparat komunikattiv għall-persuni neqsin mis-smiġh;
Bath tub lifters;
Typewriters tal-Braille u *embossers*;
Bsaten Bojod;

164, that was published on 9th February 2018 in Government Gazette number 19,946, shall be kept in force within their terms and conditions and shall continue to be effective and binding, subject that the maximum capping shall be €1,000. This capping will be applicable for a five-year period from when the individual would have benefitted from the first grant and the cumulative amount of the grant/s received cannot be more than the indicated maximum capping even if this was obtained in virtue of the said grant published by Government Notice number 951 and subsequently amended by Government Notice 164.

6. Payment of Grant

The grant will be credited to the applicant, or to the parent/s/ legal guardian/s in the case of applicants under the age of sixteen, in the bank account that is indicated in the application.

7. Validity of application

An application shall not be deemed to be valid unless:

(a) it is full and complete in all material aspects;

(b) it is accompanied by all the relevant details as required;

(c) it is submitted by not later than six months from the date of purchase of the special equipment as is stipulated in paragraph 4 of this scheme.

8. Duration of the scheme

This scheme shall remain in force for an indefinite period from the effective date, until such time that the Minister for Finance may opt to modify/ terminate it by a notice to be published in the Government Gazette

9. Amendments to the scheme

The Minister for Finance reserves the right to make any amendments to this scheme by the publication of the said amendments in the Government Gazette.

SCHEDULES

Schedule A – List of Eligible Special Equipment

Schedule A

First Part

Amplifiers for communications devices for persons with impaired hearing;
Bath tub lifters;
Braille typewriters and embossers;
White Sticks;

Bsaten u *Ferrules*;
Buggies speċjali;
Chairlifts;
Gutter Frames;
Hoists;
Lifts biex iddaħħal is-siġġu tar-roti fil-karozza*;
Mouth sticks;
Platform stair lifts;
Pressure relief cushions;
Prone standers;
 Saqqijiet għal kontra l-feriti;
 Sedili għoljin tat-toilet;
 Sedili tat-toilet li jintefhu;
 Siġġijiet tar-roti manwali;
 Siġġijiet tar-roti tal-elettriku;
 Siġġijiet speċjali;
 Siġġijiet *special feeder*;
Swimming Pool Lifters;
Toilet frames/surrounds;
Walkers speċjali tat-tfal.

It-Tieni Parti

Sodod speċjali (sodod b'għoli varjabbli, idrawliċi jew motorizzati);

Pultroni Lifting u/jew *Reclining*;
 Apparat ta' għajnuna fil-kamra tal-banju bħal siġġijiet tax-shower u *grab rails*;
Guide Dogs (Liċenzjati mill-Malta *Guide Dog Foundation*);
Service Dogs (Liċenzjati mill-Malta *Service Dog Association*);
 Magni tal-*continuous positive airway pressure therapy* (CPAP);
Scooters li jiffaċilitaw il-mobilità;
 Kompjuters (inklużi *laptops*, *iPads* u *tablets*);
Reader Pens (pen format *OCR scanners* u *speech enabled readers* għall-persuni bid-dyslexia jew livell ta' viżjoni baxx hafna;
 Apparat speċifikament għall-għomja (bħal *displays* ta' tipa kbira u *voice based output*), bħal *victor reader*, *CCTV magnifiers* u *OCR scanners*;
 Teknoloġija ta' *smart home automation* meta tkun installata għall-benefiċċju ta' persuni b'mard newro deġenerattiv u persuni li jużaw il-*wheelchair*;
 Teknoloġija li taħdem b'*eye tracking* u *head tracking* meta uzata għall-benefiċċju ta' persuni b'diżabilità sabiex tgħinohom fl-*iscreen pointer control* u/jew fil-kommunikazzjoni tat-tip *assistive and augmentative*;
 Prodotti ta' teknoloġija assistiva bħal *TheGrid*, *Clicker8*, *Boardmaker*, *Dragon Naturally Speaking*.

*Tapplika għal modifiki li jkunu meħtieġa jsiru lil vetturi li diġà jkollu l-applikant.

Walking Sticks and *Ferrules*;
 Special *Buggies*;
Chairlifts;
Gutter Frames;
Hoists;
Wheelchair lifts for vehicles*;
Mouth sticks;
Platform stair lifts;
Pressure relief cushions;
Prone standers;
Pressure relief mattresses;
 Raised toilet seats;
 Padded/Inflatable toilet seats;
 Manual wheelchairs;
 Powered wheelchairs;
 Special seats;
 Special feeder chairs;
Swimming pool lifters;
Toilet frames/surrounds;
 Children special walkers.

Second Part

Variable height beds, hydraulic or motorized;

Lifting/Reclining armchairs;
 Bathroom aids (eg: shower chairs, grab rails);
 Guide Dogs (Licensed through the Malta Guide Dog Foundation);
 Service Dogs (Licensed through the Malta Service Dog Association);
 Continuous positive airway pressure therapy (CPAP) machines;
 Mobility Scooters;
 Computers (including laptops, iPads and tablets);
 Reader Pens (pen format *OCR scanners* and speech enabled readers for persons with Dyslexia, or very low vision);
 Devices specifically for the blind (like large character display and voice based output) like victor reader, CCTV magnifiers and OCR scanners;
 Smart home automation technology when being installed for the benefit of persons with neuro-degenerative diseases and wheelchair users;
 Eye tracking and head tracking technology products when used to benefit persons with disability so as to enable screen pointer control and/or Assistive and Augmentative Communication;
 Assisitive technology products like *TheGrid*, *Clicker8*, *Boardmaker*, *Dragon Naturally Speaking*.

*Applies to modifications that are required to vehicles that are already pre-owned by the applicant.