

Types of Public Services Cards and their functions:

	<p>PSC – <u>NO</u> Free Travel: This card with the blue octagon in the top left corner can be used for payment and other services but it is <u>NOT</u> valid for free travel. It is a Public Services Card with your photograph on it which makes it easy for providers of public services to verify the identity of customers.</p>
	<p>PSC Free Travel – P: This card with a yellow circle in the top left corner can be used for free travel but can only be used by the person whose photograph is printed on the front of the card. The card should be placed onto the card reader to check that the card is valid and to record the journey, although no fare shall be charged. Please note, if the card does not have the yellow 'FT' printed on its face, it is not valid for free travel.</p>
	<p>PSC Free Travel + S (spouse/civil partner/cohabitant): This card with a yellow circle in the top left corner can be used for free travel but can only be used by person whose photograph is printed on the front of the card. Their spouse/civil partner/cohabitant can also travel with them. The card should be placed onto the card reader to check that the card is valid and to record the journey, although no fare shall be charged. To record the presence of a spouse/civil partner/cohabitant, the card must be presented to the travel operator who will record the spouse/civil partner/cohabitant journey. If the spouse/civil partner/cohabitant is not present, no action is required.</p>
	<p>PSC Free Travel + C (companion): This card with a yellow circle in the top left corner can be used for free travel but can only be used by the person whose photograph is printed on the front of the card. A companion is also permitted to travel with the cardholder. The card should be placed onto the card reader to check that the card is valid and to record the journey, although no fare shall be charged. To record the presence of a companion, the card must be presented to the travel operator who will record the companion journey. If the companion is not present, no action is required.</p>

The Public Services Card (PSC) has been introduced to enable individuals gain access to public services more efficiently and with a minimum of duplication of effort, while at the same time preserving their privacy to the maximum extent possible.

The PSC is designed to replace other cards within the public sector such as the Free Travel Pass and the Social Services Card of this Department and to make it easy for providers of public services to verify the identity of customers.

The introduction of the PSC marks a significant improvement on existing cards as it provides enhanced access to services. For example, a person who holds a Public Services Card does not need to provide any additional proof of their identity when collecting a social welfare payment at the Post Office. It also, through the inclusion of a photograph and signature and better security features, considerably reduces the potential for identity theft, forgery and fraudulent use.

Face-To-Face Registration process is currently taking place 144 stations in 89 locations across the country. The deployment of face-to-face registration as part of the Road Safety Authority (RSA) Driver's License application/renewal process is expected to commence in Quarter 2 2015. The Department has a programme in place to register customers to enable them to gain access to public services more efficiently and if you do not already have your new PSC you will be invited in due course to complete the registration process. Until such time as this happens, your old form free travel pass remains valid and should be presented to travel operators in the usual way. On receipt of your new PSC – FT card you should then activate the card as instructed and return the old pass to the Department.

A postal registration process has also been introduced and has been offered to people over 66 years of age who in receipt of a Department of Social Protection pension. The process, which represents a minimum of inconvenience to the customer, involves the submission of passport standard photographs or the utilisation of photographs previously submitted as part of a passport application, and the completion and return of a basic form designed to verify identity data.