News

Motability looks forward to continuing to meet the needs of disabled people and their families in the decades to come.

Lord Sterling, Chairman and co-founder of Motability, said:

“I am very glad that Sir Arnys Morse, the Comptroller and Auditor General at the NAO, has personally commended the excellence of our service and quality of our management. That praise, of course, is due to the wonderful dedication of all those employed at both Motability and Motability Operations.

“We have accepted all of the NAO’s recommendations but have told them there are areas still open to further debate. One, in particular, is the suggestion that customers are being charged ‘more than was required to cover lease costs’. This runs quite contrary to the fact that Scheme customers pay 45% less than the market rate for their vehicles, in addition to the support, insurance and vehicle enhancements that we offer and initiatives such as the Good Condition Bonus. As such, every penny, surplus to sustainability and to this excellent price and service, goes to help enhance the lives of disabled people and their families.”

Why Motability matters to me

Lord Shinkwin is one of the new Governors. He recently sent this letter to the members of the Work and Pensions and Treasury Select Committees:

“In 1977, I was a six-year-old whose brittle bones saw me spend much of my childhood in a hospital bed. It was also the year that the charity Motability was established. Almost 20 years later, as a severely disabled adult following more than 50 fractures and having just survived major neurosurgery, my Motability Scheme car was a key part of my recovery.

“The neurosurgery saved my life, but it also left me facing years of exasperation as I coaxed muscles in my throat and face back to life so I could talk again. I will never forget how important it was that despite the hurt and shame of not being understood, I was nonetheless able to climb into my Scheme car and drive away. The simple fact that behind the wheel I was the same as anyone else took on a whole new significance; it was my lifeline to normality and to sanity. Yes, it helped me get from A to B, but more than that, my Scheme car helped me get through the toughest time of my life. It quite literally freed me from both the practical and sometimes overwhelming psychological constraints of my disability.

“I know I am in good company. In fact, millions of disabled people have been helped on their own personal road to freedom because of Motability. The revolutionary vision of its founders, Lord Sterling and the late Lord Goodman, was way ahead of the curve in the 1970s, and it has stood the test of time. In a nutshell, it is to enable disabled people to be as independently mobile as possible. I am so proud to serve as a Governor of Motability and to help build on that vision.”

> Please turn to pages 10 and 11 to read the biographies of all Motability’s Governors.