



INS57P
(NI)

Information on driving licences

For more information go to www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring



Please check your photocard and counterpart carefully and keep this leaflet safe.

CUSTOMER
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Your driving licence

Your driving licence is made up of two parts: a plastic photocard and a paper counterpart.

Please check both parts of your driving licence carefully. This is especially important if there is a mistake in your name, address, date of birth or vehicle categories. **The address shown is in the format preferred by Royal Mail and may not be identical to the one you gave on your application form.**

If there is anything wrong with either part of your driving licence, send **both** parts back to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. Include a letter explaining what is wrong.

Whenever you contact us about your licence, you will need to provide your full name and date of birth, or your driver number. This helps us to find your details.

We will send your licence and identity documents separately. If you do not get your identity documents back within 10 working days of receiving your photocard licence, please contact us on **0845 402 4000**.

What to do if you lose your photocard and/or paper counterpart

You can apply for a replacement driving licence using form DL1(NI) Application for a driving licence, which is available from main Post Office® branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT Centres.

If you lose either part of your driving licence, you must return any part you still hold to us. We will issue a replacement of both parts. If either part of your driving licence has been lost or stolen, you should also tell the police.

How to renew your driving licence

Driving licences are normally valid for up to 10 years. If you hold entitlement to drive a large lorry or large bus (C, CE, D or DE) this will be valid for a maximum of 5 years. We will send you a reminder when your licence is due to be renewed. You can also apply for renewal of your licence using form DL1(NI).

Changing your personal details

You must immediately tell us about any change to your personal details.

To notify us of a change to your address you must complete the section provided on the paper counterpart and sign your name inside the white box on the front of the counterpart. DVA can only issue a driving licence to residents of Northern Ireland who provide a Northern Ireland **residential** address.

If your name has changed you will need to complete form DL1(NI) which is available from main Post Office® branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT centres. Send the completed form, a colour passport sized photograph, both parts of your driving licence and the relevant documentary evidence to support your name change to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. The documentary evidence you must provide is detailed in application form DL1(NI).

Failure to notify any changes as described above is a criminal offence punishable by a fine up to £1000.

What to do when a licence holder dies

If you are responsible for dealing with the estate of the person who has died, send both parts of their driving licence to us at DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.

To prevent any unnecessary correspondence which may cause distress, please send a covering letter that includes the full name, address and date of birth or driver number of the person who has died and the date they died. **You do not need to send in the death certificate.** If the licence is not available, a letter giving the driver number or full name and date of birth will be sufficient.

When a licence is no longer needed

If you no longer want to drive you should return your licence to us at DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. Include a letter explaining that you no longer want a licence.

Your health

You must let us know if you have ever had, or currently suffer from, any medical condition that could affect your ability to drive. If you are not sure whether to tell us about a medical condition, your doctor should be able to give you advice.

You can find information about relevant health conditions on our website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring under the Driver Licensing heading.

Eyesight

A new format for number plates was introduced on 1 September 2001. This means that the characters displayed on all new and replacement number plates must be 50mm wide instead of 57mm wide.

To comply with the current eyesight criteria for driving you must be able to read a number plate, in good daylight, from 20.5 metres (67 feet) for old-style characters or 20 metres (65 feet) for new-style characters. If you need to wear glasses or corrective lenses to do this, you must wear them every time you drive.

There are higher eyesight standards for those who drive medium-sized and large goods vehicles, minibuses or buses.

Bioptics (telescope) are not currently acceptable for use while driving in the United Kingdom and it is not acceptable to use a Bioptic device to meet the prescribed eyesight standard. A Bioptic device cannot be used to pass the number plate test.

Further information is available on our website at **www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring** under the Driver Licensing heading.

If you have any questions about standards for eyesight, or any other medical condition, you can contact us in the following ways:

By phoning 0845 402 4000 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Minicom users should call 028 70341380

By sending an email to dvlni@doeni.gov.uk

By writing to DVA Medical Section, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.

By sending a fax to 028 70341398

When you contact us, please give your full name and address, and your date of birth or driver number.

Also give us as much information as possible about your medical condition.

General information

Your new driving licence explained

From 19 January 2013 all driving licences issued by DVA will be in a new format. Old format licences will still be valid – they will be updated gradually as they are renewed and replaced.

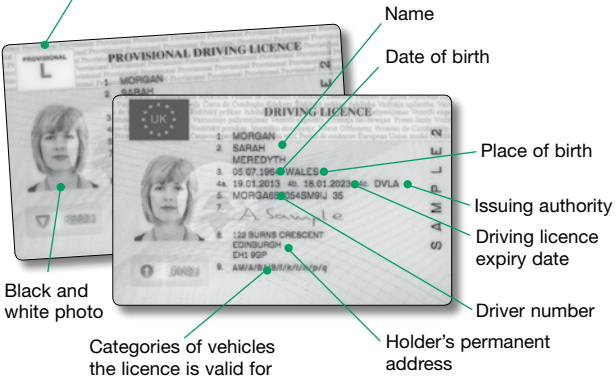
Your new licence is made up of a photocard and a paper counterpart. The photocard will show your photo, signature and the categories of vehicle you are entitled to drive. The photograph will be shown on your driving licence card as a black and white image. The paper counterpart will show the vehicles you are entitled to drive as a learner, driving offences and other relevant information.

The new style licence photocard will look different to the current licence. Although it will continue to display all entitlements to drive, additionally on the back of the card, those vehicle categories that the holder cannot drive will be crossed through. This will make it clear which categories are valid for driving and which are not.

If you have to show your licence to the police you should show them the photocard and the paper counterpart. You should not deface your driving licence in any way.

An example of the front of a photocard licence

A letter L on the provisional photocard confirms that the holder is a learner driver. The symbol is shown on all provisional photocard driving licences.



An example of the back of a full photocard licence

The steering wheel is a security feature. It changes colour when viewed at a different angle.



The date your entitlement to drive a category of vehicle starts.

The '<' = 'earlier than' symbol (if shown) means that the date shown has been worked out using the earliest information available.

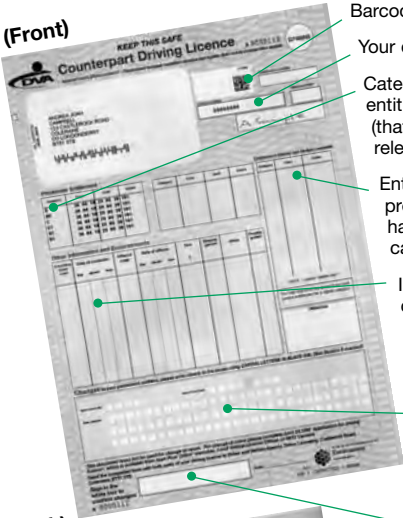
Information codes. A description of the codes is shown on page 11.

Unique card identifier, used to link the photocard and the counterpart document.

The date your entitlement to drive each category of vehicle ends. The last two figures refer to the year. Categories you have provisional entitlement to drive are shown on the paper counterpart document.

An example of a counterpart document

(Front)



Barcode.

Your driver number.

Categories of vehicle you are entitled to drive provisionally (that is, before you pass the relevant driving test).

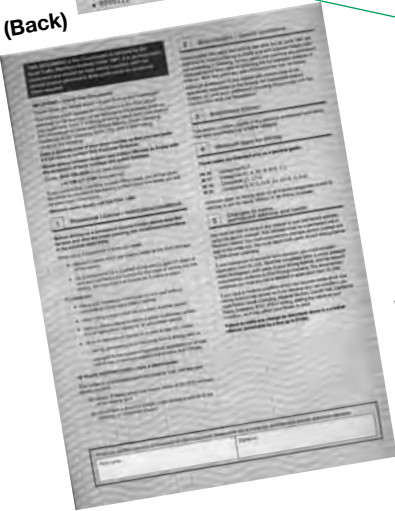
Entitlement history (that is, previous entitlement which has been replaced by a higher category).

Information regarding convictions, penalty points or periods of restriction will be shown here.

The counterpart also has an area for you to tell us about a change of address. (Both the photocard and counterpart must be returned in this case).

Signature box for confirming change of address.

(Back)



We no longer issue plastic wallets with photocard driving licences.

We cannot return old plastic wallets sent in to us.

The categories of vehicle

Maximum weights






Except for category B1*, all weights quoted in the table on pages 8, 9 and 10 relate to '**maximum authorised mass**' (**MAM**). This is the total weight of the vehicle when loaded. It may also be described as the 'gross vehicle weight'.





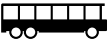
This is normally shown on a plate fitted to the vehicle.





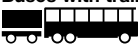

* Entitlement to category B1 only applies to drivers who have passed their test prior to 19 January 2013.



Descriptions of vehicle categories

If you hold provisional entitlement to **any** of these categories and pass a test in that category on or after 19 January 2013, **regardless of when you obtained your licence**, the categories described within this table will apply to you.

Category	Descriptions of vehicle categories for drivers on or after 19/01/13	Minimum age	Notes	Details of the change
AM	<p>Moped</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or 3 wheel vehicles with a maximum design speed over 25 km/h but not more than 45km/h <p>Light quadricycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four wheeled vehicle with an unladen weight of not more than 350kg, not including the mass of the batteries in case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is over 25km/h and less than 45km/h 	16	See Note 7	New Category
A1	<p>Motorcycles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motorcycle up to 125cc/11kw with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.1 kW/kg • A motor tricycle up to 15kW 	17	See Note 7	Category description
A2	<p>Motorcycles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35 kW and with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.2 kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power 	19	See Note 7	New Category
A	<p>Motorcycles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motorcycle of a power exceeding 35kW • A motor tricycle over 15kW 	24	See notes 1 and 7	Category description and minimum age
B1	<p>4 wheel light vehicles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicles with 4 wheels up to 550kg unladen weight • Invalid carriages 	17	See note 2	Category no longer exists from 19/01/13 for new drivers

Category	Descriptions of vehicle categories for drivers on or after 19/01/13	Minimum age	Notes	Details of the change
B	<p>Cars</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicle with up to 8 passenger seats and weighing no more than 3500kg towing a trailer up to 750kg. • The combined weight of the vehicle and trailer should not exceed 3500kg 	17	See note 2	
B96	<p>Combinations of a motor vehicle and trailer where:</p> <p>(a) the tractor vehicle is in category B;</p> <p>(b) the maximum authorised mass of the trailer exceeds 750 kilograms; and</p> <p>(c) the maximum authorised mass of the combination exceeds 3.5 tonnes but does not exceed 4.25 tonnes.</p>	17	See Note 11	New Category
C1	<p>Medium sized vehicles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles exceeding 3500kg and not exceeding 7500kg • May tow a trailer that does not exceed 750kg 	18	See notes 3, 4 and 8	
C	<p>Large goods vehicles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles exceeding 3500kg towing a trailer that does not exceed 750kg 	21	See notes 3 and 4	
D1	<p>Minibuses</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minibuses with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding 8 metres • May be combined with a trailer that does not exceed 750kg 	21	See notes 3, 4 and 8	Category description
D	<p>Buses</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any bus with more than 8 passenger seats and may tow a trailer that does not exceed 750kg 	24	See notes 3, 5, 6 and 9	Minimum age

Category	Descriptions of vehicle categories for drivers on or after 19/01/13	Minimum age	Notes	Details of the change
B+E	<p>Small vehicles and trailers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of a motor vehicle (being a tractor vehicle in category B) and trailer or semi trailer where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the combination does not fall within category B b) the maximum authorised mass of the trailer or semi trailer does not exceed 3.5 tonnes 	17	See note 8	
C1+E	<p>Medium sized vehicles with trailers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As category C1 but towing a trailer which exceeds 750kg where the combined weight of the vehicle and trailer does not exceed 12,000kg 	21*	See notes 3, 4 and 8	
C+E	<p>Large goods vehicles with trailers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As category C but towing a trailer which exceeds 750kg 	21	See notes 3 and 4	
D1+E	<p>Minibuses with trailers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As category D1 but towing a trailer which exceeds 750kg 	21	See notes 3, 4 and 8	Category description
D+E	<p>Buses with trailers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combinations of buses in category D towing a trailer which exceeds 750kg 	24	See notes 3, 5, 6 and 9	Minimum age
p	<p>Moped</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mopeds – a vehicle with less than 4 wheels with a maximum design speed over 45km/h but not more than 50km/h and which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not over 50cc 	16	See note 7	Will be replaced with new European moped category AM from 19/01/13

Category	Descriptions of vehicle categories for drivers on or after 19/01/13	Minimum age	Notes	Details of the change
q	Moped  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicles with less than 4 wheels which if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not over 50cc and if not equipped with pedals by means of which the vehicle is capable of being propelled, has a maximum design speed not over 25km/h 	16		New Category
f	Agricultural tractors 	17**		
g	Road rollers	21***		
h	Tracked Vehicles	21	See note 10	
k	Mowing machines or vehicles controlled by someone on foot	16		

Note 1

- For test passes in Category A up to and including 18/01/13, drivers will be restricted for 2 years (not counting any periods of disqualification) to 25kW (33bhp). After 2 years you may ride any size of motorcycle with or without a sidecar.
- From 19/01/13, Age 24 for Direct Access or Age 21 for Progressive Access i.e. 2 years from the date of the Standard A2 test pass (not counting any periods of disqualification).
- Tricycle restriction code.

Note 2

- Age 16 if you are getting Disability Living Allowance at the higher rate.

Note 3

- Age 17 if a member of the armed services.

Note 4

- Age 18 when driver
 - Has an initial CPC qualification;
 - Is undertaking a driving lesson or driving test; or
 - Is undertaking a vocational training course and the competent authority has issued that person with an NVT certificate.

Note 5

- Age 18 when driver
 - i. has an initial CPC qualification and is not carrying passengers or is carrying passengers on a regular service on a route which does not exceed 50km;
 - ii. is undertaking a driving lesson or driving test, or
 - iii. is undertaking a vocational training course and the competent authority has issued that person with an NVT certificate.

Note 6

- Age 20 when has initial qualification – carrying passengers on a route which can exceed 50km.

Note 7

You must complete Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) and ensure that your CBT certificate is valid for the relevant motorcycle category.

- Learner riders of mopeds (category P or AM) and small motorcycles (category A1) must complete CBT before riding unaccompanied on public roads.
- Learner riders of medium sized (category A2) and large (category A) motorcycles must be accompanied by an Approved Motorcycle Instructor (AMI) at all times when riding on public roads until they have successfully passed both their off-road manoeuvres and on road test.

Note 8

- If you passed your test for category B before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1 (nor for hire or reward), D1E (not for hire or reward) as entitlement.

Note 9

- You need category D entitlement to drive an articulated bus (for example, a 'bendibus'). You can get more details from DVA.

Note 10

- You can drive at 17 if the maximum authorised mass (MAM) of the tracked vehicle is not more than 3500kg.

Note 11

- Exchange code only.

* Age 18 if combination weight does not exceed 7500kg.

** Age 16 for tractors less than 2.45m wide. Must only pull trailer less than 2.45m wide with two wheels or four close coupled.

*** Age 17 for small road rollers with metal or hard rollers.

Must not be steam powered, weigh more than 11690kg or be made for carrying goods.

Information codes

Listed below are descriptions of the information codes on your driving licence. These tell you any restrictions on your driving entitlement.

Code	Sub	Description
		Driver (medical reasons)
001		Eyesight correction
002		Hearing/communication aid
003		Prosthesis/Orthosis of the limbs
005		Limited use due to medical reasons – Sub-code is obligatory
005	01	Limited to daytime journeys (i.e. one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset)
005	02	Limited to journeys within a specified radius from the holder's place of residence, or only inside a specified city or region
005	03	Driving without passengers
005	04	Limited to journeys with a speed not greater than a specified limit
005	05	Driving authorised solely when accompanied by a holder of a driving licence
005	06	Without trailer
005	07	No driving on motorways
005	08	No alcohol
010		Modified transmission
015		Modified clutch
020		Modified braking systems
025		Modified accelerator systems
030		Combined braking and accelerator systems
035		Modified control layouts
040		Modified steering
042		Modified rear-view mirror(s)
043		Modified driving seats
		Vehicle adaptations
044		Modifications to Motorcycles – Sub-code is obligatory
044	01	Single operated brake
044	02	(Adjusted) hand-operated brake (front wheel)
044	03	(Adjusted) foot-operated brake (back wheel)
044	04	(Adjusted) accelerator handle
044	05	(Adjusted) manual transmission and manual clutch
044	06	(Adjusted) rear-view mirror(s)
044	07	(Adjusted) commands (direction indicators, braking light, etc.)
044	08	Seat height allowing the driver, in sitting position, to have two feet on the road at the same time
045		Motorcycle only with sidecar
046		Tricycles only
		Restrictions
050		Restricted to a specific vehicle/chassis number (vehicle identification number – VIN)
051		Restricted to a specific vehicle/chassis number (vehicle registration number – VRN)
070		Exchange of licence
071		Duplicate of licence
072		Restricted to Category A vehicles having a maximum cylinder capacity of 125cc and a maximum power of 1kW (A1)

- 073 Restricted to Category B vehicles of the motor tricycle or quadricycle type (B1)
- 074 Restricted to Category C vehicles the maximum authorised mass of which does not exceed 7,500kg (C1)
- 075 Restricted to Category D vehicles with no more than 16 seats, excluding the driver's seat (D1)
- 076 Restricted to Category C vehicles the maximum authorised mass of which does not exceed 7,500kg (C1), attached to a trailer the maximum authorised mass of which exceeds 750kg, provided that the maximum authorised mass of the vehicle train thus formed does not exceed 12,000kg and that the maximum authorised mass of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the drawing vehicle (C1E)
- 077 Restricted to Category D vehicles with no more than 16 seats, excluding the driver's seat (D1), attached to a trailer the maximum authorised mass of which exceeds 750kg, provided that (a) the maximum authorised mass of the vehicle train thus formed does not exceed 12,000kg and that the maximum authorised mass of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the drawing vehicle and (b) the trailer is not used to carry passengers (D1E)
Additional Aptitude – NB These are NOT restrictions
- 078 Restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
- 079 Restricted to vehicles in conformity with the specifications stated in brackets
- 079.03 Restricted to tricycles
- 095 Driver holding CPC meeting the obligation of professional aptitude provided for by Directive 2003/29/EC
- 096 Driver having completed training or having passed a test of skills and behaviour in accordance with the provisions of Annex V
- 101 Not for hire or reward
- 102 Drawbar trailers only
- 105 Not more than 5.5m long
- 106 Restricted to vehicles with automatic transmissions
- 107 Not more than 8250kg
- 108 Subject to minimum age requirements
- 110 Limited to invalid carriages
- 111 Limited to 16 passenger seats
- 113 Limited to 16 passenger seats except for automatics
- 114 With any special controls required for safe driving
- 115 Organ donor
- 118 Start date is for earliest entitlement
- 119 Weight limit does not apply
- 120 Complies with health standard for category D1
- 121 Restricted to conditions specified in the Secretary of State's notice
- 122 Valid on successful completion: Basic Moped Training Course (CBT)

Foreign country codes

The relevant codes will appear in the 'Information codes' section of the driving licence if you have exchanged your licence from any of these countries for a NI licence.

Australia	AUS	Italy	I
Austria	A	Japan	J
Barbados	BDS	Jersey	GBJ
Belgium	B	Latvia	LV
British Virgin Islands	VGB	Liechtenstein	FL
Bulgaria	BG	Lithuania	LT
Canada	CDN	Luxembourg	L
Cyprus	CY	Malta	M
Czech Republic	CZ	Monaco	MC
Denmark	DK	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EST	New Zealand	NZ
Falkland Islands	FK	Norway	N
Faroe Islands	FO	Poland	PL
Finland	FIN	Portugal	P
France	F	Republic of Korea	ROK
Germany	D	Romania	RO
Gibraltar	GBZ	Singapore	SGP
Greece	GR	Slovakia	SK
Guernsey	GBG	Slovenia	SLO
Hong Kong	HK	South Africa	ZA
Hungary	H	Spain	E
Iceland	IS	Sweden	S
Ireland	IRL	Switzerland	CH
Isle of Man	GBM	Zimbabwe	ZW

Driving in other countries

Visiting another country

Your NI licence allows you to drive in all other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) (includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and all EC Member States). Check with a motoring organisation if you want to drive in a country that is not in the EEA. They will tell you whether you need an International Driving Permit (IDP). IDPs are issued by the AA, the RAC and Green Flag National Breakdown Recovery Club.

In order to obtain an IDP, you must live in Northern Ireland, have passed a driving test, and be over 18.

Moving to another country

If you move to another country, you should get information about driving there from the relevant authority in that country.

If you **return** here from a country that is not in the EEA and you do not have a NI licence, you may:

- drive for up to 12 months on a valid licence that is not a NI, GB or EEA licence; or
- apply for a replacement of your previous NI licence by paying the appropriate fee and surrender any GB, EEA or exchangeable licence you hold.

Learner drivers and provisional licence holders

Provisional licence conditions and restrictions (cars)

Learner drivers must be supervised. To supervise a learner driver you must be at least 21 and have a current full Northern Ireland (NI), Great Britain (GB) or European Economic Area (EEA) driving licence, which you must have held for at least three years.

Learner drivers must display 'L' plates on the vehicle they are driving and the plates must be clearly visible at the front and back of the vehicle.

If you have provisional entitlement to drive cars with trailers (category B+E) **and have passed a test for cars (category B)** you may drive on the motorway as long as you are supervised and are displaying 'L' plates.

If you do not meet these conditions you could be fined up to £1000, be disqualified (banned) from driving or have three to six penalty points on your licence.

Entitlement for 16 year-olds

If you are 16, provisional category B entitlement (motorcar) will be shown on your licence but it will not be valid until your 17th birthday (age 16 if you receive a Disability Living Allowance (mobility component) at the higher rate).

Applying for a full licence after passing your test

Once you have passed a driving test you **must** send the test pass certificate to us in order to claim your new entitlements on your driving licence.

You must return **both parts** of your current driving licence. If you are unable to return your driving licence please complete form DL1(NI) and tell us why in section 10 **of the DL1(NI)**.

However, if your licence was issued on or after the 13th June 2011, you may be eligible for automatic issue of your driving licence (ADLI). Your Driving Examiner will be able to advise you upon passing your driving test.

'R' Plate Restrictions – Cars & Motorcycles

The holder of a temporarily restricted licence shall until the date shown on their counterpart;

- (a) display R plates which are clearly visible at the front and rear of the vehicle; and
- (b) not exceed a speed of 45mph when driving a vehicle of the category or categories shown.

Please note, riders of medium sized (category A2) and large (category A) motorcycles who pass their test on or after 19 January 2013 can ride at speeds in excess of 45mph but will still be required to clearly display R plates.

Compulsory Basic Training (CBT)

Provisional licence for motorcycles

All learner riders must complete a CBT course before riding a moped or motorcycle on a public road.

Please note:

- full car licence holders who get provisional motorcycle entitlement on their licence will not be able to ride a motorcycle or moped on the road until they have a valid CBT certificate
- anyone who has passed a moped test will not require CBT for category A1
- if you have completed CBT on a moped or A1 motorcycle, you will be required to complete an additional CBT course on an A2 or A motorcycle if you want to learn to ride either of these categories, as you will not have been trained at speeds in excess of 45mph
- if you have passed an A1 test and gained two years experience you will not require CBT for A2 or A (provided you meet the relevant age requirements) as you will have gained one year's post-test experience riding at speeds in excess of 45mph.

However, you will need to take a further training course if your full licence limits you to riding an automatic or modified moped or motorcycle and you want to ride a machine with manual transmission or a moped or motorcycle that haven't been modified.

Further information on CBT can be found at www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring

Full car driving licence holders riding mopeds

Anyone who passes a full car test and receives full moped entitlement on or after 21 February 2011 will have to complete a course of CBT in order to validate this full moped entitlement for life.

Anyone who passed a car test prior to 21 February 2011 will retain full entitlement to a full moped licence, but we encourage them to take training.

Full car driving licence holders with provisional motorcycle entitlement

From 21st February 2011, a person who passes a full car test and receives provisional A1 motorcycle entitlement must successfully complete CBT before they can ride a motorcycle on public roads.

Learner riders of medium sized (category A2) and large (category A) motorcycles must complete CBT on an A2 or A motorcycle and you must also be accompanied by an Approved Motorcycle Instructor (AMI) at all times.

Motorcycle progression for learner riders

There will be 2 routes to obtain motorcycle entitlement;

- Direct Access – you must meet the minimum age criteria for the motorcycle category (see below) have a valid CBT and theory test certificate and pass the relevant motorcycle tests;
- Progressive Access (also known as staged) – you can obtain entitlement to category A2 from aged 19 years and category A from aged 21 years provided you have a minimum of 2 years experience on the lower category motorcycle and pass the relevant motorcycle tests. The period of 2 years experience will start from the date you receive full licence entitlement for the lower category.

Types of mopeds and motorcycles for tests

From 19 January 2013 there will be changes to the licensing categories and minimum test vehicle requirements of mopeds and motorcycles for learner riders.

A learner moped or motorcycle rider can take the following tests, depending on their age and which route of progression they choose to take:

- Category AM moped – if you pass a moped test, you will be allowed to ride a moped of 50 cubic centimetres (cc) capacity or less which has a top speed of no more than 28mph (45km/h). The minimum age for category AM is 16 years.
- Category A1 light motorcycle – If you pass a category A1 motorcycle test riding a motorcycle with an engine capacity of at least 120cc but no more than 125cc, you will be allowed to ride a motorcycle with an engine capacity up to but not exceeding 125cc (11kW/14.6 bhp) The minimum age for category A1 is 17 years.
- Category A2 medium sized motorcycle – if you pass a category A2 motorcycle test riding a motorcycle with an engine capacity of at least 395cc with an engine power output of at least 25kW (33 bhp) and not exceeding 35kW (46.6 bhp) and a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kilogram, you will be allowed to ride a motorcycle of up to 35kW/46.6 bhp). The minimum age for category A2 is 19 years
- Category A large sized motorcycle – if you pass a category A motorcycle test riding a motorcycle with an engine capacity of at least 595cc with an engine power output of 40kW, you will be allowed to ride a motorcycle of any size. The minimum age for category A is 21 progressive, 24 direct.

Please note that tests for mopeds with three or four wheels, A1 and A tricycles and sidecar combinations will only be offered to the physically disabled.

Minibuses, lorries and buses

Driving a minibus

If you were entitled to drive cars before 1 January 1997 you can drive a minibus as long as:

- you are 21 or over;
- the minibus has no more than 16 passenger seats; and
- it is driven other than for hire or reward.

If you are 70 or over, or have a short-period licence for medical reasons you will be allowed to drive these vehicles only if you meet the higher medical standards. For further information please contact our Customer Enquiry Unit on 0845 402 4000 or visit our website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring.

For anyone who passed a car test after 1st January 1997; in order to drive a vehicle with over eight passenger seats, and to carry fare-paying passengers, you will need to take further driving tests. To get this you must meet higher medical standards and take a further driving test. All applications for a bus licence must be accompanied by a Basic Disclosure Certificate. Please see the DL1(NI) application form for further information. You will also be subject to Driver CPC conditions (see overleaf).

From 19 January 2013, if applying for a category D licence you must meet the new minimum age requirement. Please see the descriptions of vehicle categories table on page 9 for details.

All holders of category B driving licences may drive minibuses in the circumstances explained below.

If your driving licence does not allow you to drive minibuses (does not show category D1), there are certain circumstances where you may still be able to do so. You may drive a minibus with up to 16 passenger seats as long as:

- you are driving for social purposes for a non-commercial body but do not make a profit;
- you are 21 or over;
- you have held a category B driving licence for at least two years;
- you are providing your services on a voluntary basis; and
- the minibus weighs no more than 3.5 tonnes (not including any specialist equipment for carrying disabled passengers) or no more than 4.25 tonnes in certain circumstances.

When driving a minibus under these conditions you:

- must not receive any payment other than your out-of-pocket expenses;
- must not tow any trailer; and
- can only drive in the United Kingdom.

If you are 70 or over you will need to make a special application which involves meeting higher medical standards.

Applying for a lorry or bus licence

You must pass a driving test in a car before you take a test for a lorry or bus.

You can apply for both lorry and bus entitlement at the same time. To do this you must use form DL1 (NI) together with a DLM1 'Medical Examination Report' which must be completed by a doctor. A basic Disclosure Certificate will also be required. You will also be subject to Driver CPC.

You must also pass a driving test in a lorry and/or bus.

Driver CPC

The Driver CPC is for Lorry and Bus drivers who drive professionally throughout the UK. It is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of professional Lorry and Bus drivers throughout their working life.

To obtain Driver CPC you will be required to pass an initial qualification before being able to drive professionally. This can be taken at the same time as the lorry or bus driving test.

Further information on Driver CPC can be found on www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring

Driving a lorry

You must pass a driving test in a car before you take a test for this category. If you want to drive Lorries you must obtain category C or C1 entitlement. The category you apply for will depend on the weight of vehicle you wish to drive. (see the table entitled 'Description of Vehicle Categories' in this leaflet for further information on vehicle weights).

Driving a bus

You must pass a driving test in a car before you take a test for this category. If you want to drive buses you must obtain category D or D1 entitlement. All applications for a Bus licence must be accompanied by a Basic Disclosure Certificate. Please see the DL1 (NI) application form for further information. A DLM1 'Medical Examination Report' will also be required for first applications and if you are age 45 or over or are renewing a medically restricted licence.

From 19 January 2013, the minimum age for category D will increase to 24 years for non professional drivers.

You can drive professionally if you are under 24 when you pass the Category D test but you will be subject to certain conditions. These conditions are detailed in the 'Description of Vehicle categories from 19 January 2013' table in this leaflet.

Validity Periods

New rules in relation to the validity of a licence apply to lorry and bus drivers from 19 January 2013. Drivers who apply for a provisional licence for a lorry or bus from this date will be given a maximum 5 year period, up to age 65. If you are an existing driver under 45 who currently holds 10 year lorry or bus entitlement, you will come under these new validity rules the next time you upgrade or renew your driving licence. Your new licence will be valid for a maximum of 5 years up to age 65.

The expiry date of your licence will show on the face of the photocard in section 4b and the expiry date of your entitlement will show on the back of the photocard at section 11.

Supervising learner lorry and bus drivers

If you want to supervise a learner lorry or bus driver you must hold a full licence for the vehicle being driven by the learner driver, and have held that licence for a continuous period of not less than 3 years, or for periods amounting in aggregate to not less than 3 years.

Towing trailers

If you want to tow a heavy trailer, you must first pass a test in the vehicle you would be using to tow the trailer.

Learner drivers in categories B, C1, C, D1 and D cannot tow any trailer of any size.

From 19 January 2013 there will be new restrictions for existing and new car drivers who wish to tow a trailer (category B+E)

Existing drivers

If you have a licence to drive cars/small vehicles (categories B and B+E), issued before 19 January 2013, you will retain the entitlements you obtained when you passed your driving test(s). To check what your towing restrictions are, please go to www.nidirect.gov.uk/EU3D

To tow heavier trailers on or after 19 January 2013 you will need to follow the rules for new drivers below:

New drivers from 19 January 2013:

If you pass your test to drive cars/small vehicles up to 3500kg (category B) on or after 19 January 2013, you will be able to tow:

- light trailers with a maximum authorised mass (mam) weighing no more than 750kg, or
- trailers weighing no more than a mam of 750kg, where the combined weight of the towing vehicle (car/small vehicle) and the trailer is not more than a mam of 3500kg.

To tow a trailer that weighs more than 750kg, where the combined weight of the towing vehicle and the trailer

is more than 3500kg, you will have to pass a further test to obtain category B+E (small vehicles and trailer) entitlement. After passing the B+E test the trailer you tow must not be heavier than 3500kg and the combined weight must not be more than 7000kg.

To tow a trailer that weighs more than 3500kg you will need to pass an additional test for category C1E (medium sized goods vehicles with trailers).

If you need more information on entitlement to tow trailers, please visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing

Motorhomes

When driving a motorhome it is the maximum authorised mass (the total weight of the vehicle plus the maximum load it can carry) which is relevant to the driving entitlement you need.

To drive a motorhome with a maximum authorised mass of between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes, you need a category C1 licence.

To drive a motorhome with a maximum authorised mass of over 7.5 tonnes, you need a category C licence.

Vehicles which do not need lorry or bus entitlement

If you passed your category B test before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show D1, D1+E which can be driven. Your licence will also show entitlement C1 or C1+E (not more than a mam of 8250kg). However, the following apply:

- Category D licence holders can drive bus recovery vehicles – (if automatic, automatic restriction applies).
- Category C licence holders can also drive a damaged or defective bus to a place of repair or to road test it following repair as long as;
 - they have held their full licence for at least two years,
 - the bus is being operated by the holder of a road service licence, and
 - it is not being used for the carriage of any person who is not connected with the holder of that licence.
- Category B licence holders can drive some large vehicles as long as they meet certain conditions.

Vehicles a person can drive without lorry or bus entitlement include:

- steam powered vehicles;
- lorries built before 1 January 1960 and used unloaded and not pulling a loaded trailer;
- road construction machines, industrial tractors, agricultural motor vehicles, engineering equipment, works trucks and digging machines;
- vehicles with an unladen weight of up to 3.05 tonnes and fitted with equipment for raising a disabled vehicle;

- buses more than 30 years old carrying no more than eight passengers and not to make a profit;
- play buses and exhibition buses;
- any vehicle being driven away by the police; and
- vehicles used for carrying lifeboats.

Penalty points and disqualifications

Penalty points and disqualifications stay on the paper counterpart for the following periods

Endorsements remain on your driving licence for 4 or 11 years depending on the offence.

- **11 years** from the date of the conviction for offences relating to driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, or causing death by careless driving and failing to provide a specimen to be tested.
- **4 years** from the date of the conviction for reckless or dangerous driving and offences resulting in disqualification.
- **4 years** from the date of the offence in all other cases.

After the appropriate period, you can apply to have your endorsement taken off your paper counterpart by filling in a DL1(NI) which is available from main Post Office® Branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT Centres. **You will also need to send us the photocard and paper counterpart and the appropriate fee. Fees can be found at www.nidirect.gov.uk/the-cost-of-a-driving-licence**

Penalty point codes

The following is a guide to the number of penalty points a court may impose, it does not reflect the fact that some offences may incur a disqualification. The offence code and penalty points will be shown on your driving licence and must stay there for four or eleven years depending on the offence. This is not the complete list of offence codes.

Code	Offence	Penalty Points
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Accident Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 028	Failing to stop damage only accident	5-10
50 08 031	Failing to give particulars-damage only accident	5-10
50 08 032	Failing to stop-injury accident	5-10
50 08 035	Failing to give particulars-injury only accident	5-10

Code	Offence	Penalty points
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Disqualified Driver

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 312	Driving while disqualified	6
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Careless driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 202	Driving without due care and attention	3-9
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50 08 203	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users	3-9
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The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for eleven years from the date of conviction.

50 08 204	Causing death through driving carelessly when unfit	3-11
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50 08 208	Causing death through driving carelessly with excess alcohol	3-11
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50 08 212	Causing death by careless driving and failing to supply a specimen	3-11
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Construction and use offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 13 022	Using a vehicle with defective braking system	3
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50 13 156	Using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition	3
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50 13 049	Defective tyre	3
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50 13 050	Defective tyres	3
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50 13 025	Defective steering	3
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50 13 265	Using a mobile phone while driving	3
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Reckless/dangerous driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of conviction.

41 04 001	Causing death by reckless driving	3-11
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50 08 201	Dangerous driving	3-11
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41 04 002	Causing death by dangerous driving	3-11
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50 08 018	Furious driving	3-9
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Drink or drugs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for eleven years from the date of conviction.

50 08 126	Driving with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
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50 08 127	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
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50 08 129	Driving with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
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50 08 130	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
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50 08 132	Driving with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
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50 08 133	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
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Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 123	Driving while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 124	Attempting to drive while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 142	Failing to provide a specimen when attempting to drive unfit	3-11
50 08 125	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink/drugs	10
50 08 139	Failure to provide a specimen when attempting to drive unfit	3-11
50 08 136	Failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis	3-11

Insurance Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 019	No insurance	6-8
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Licence Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 10 003	Failure to notify DOE of a physical disability	3-6
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Miscellaneous Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 231	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position	3
50 08 237	Carrying unauthorised passenger on a motorcycle	3
50 08 121	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test	3
50 08 040	Failure to give information regarding a driver	3

Speed limits

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 013	Excess speed	3-6
50 08 291	Excess speed for vehicle classification	3-6

Traffic direction signs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 268	Breach of a traffic sign	3
50 08 007	Fail to obey a signal given by a constable	3

Special codes

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of conviction.

TOT UP	To signify a disqualification under 'totting up' procedure. If the total of penalty points reaches 12 or more within three years, the driver is liable to be disqualified	
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Code	Offence	Penalty points
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Theft or unauthorised taking

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 295	Aggravated vehicle taking causing damage	3-11
50 08 290	Aggravated vehicle taking causing injury	3-11

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

If you reach a total of 6 penalty points or more, within a period of 2 years of passing your first category A or B driving test in NI, GB, an EEA Member State, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands or Gibraltar, your driving licence or test pass certificate may be revoked.

Any valid penalty points you receive before passing your test may count towards the total of six.

You cannot appeal against this decision. The only thing you can appeal against is the conviction that led to the penalty points. The relevant court will be able to give you advice on how to appeal. Once the court tells us you have made an appeal, we will not revoke (withdraw) your licence while the appeal is continuing. If you accept a fixed penalty notice you cannot appeal.

To get your full licence back, you must:

- get a provisional licence and display 'L' plates and comply with the restrictions, and
- pass the theory and practical tests again including the appropriate CBT course if you intend on taking a motorcycle test.

Passing the theory test and practical tests does not remove any penalty points from your licence that you were given before passing the test. If you accrue 12 or more penalty points within three years you may be liable to disqualification.

High-risk offenders

If you have been disqualified for having a level of alcohol in the body of:

- more than 87.5 microgrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of breath;
- more than 200 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of blood; or
- more than 267.5 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of urine;

or if you have:

- been disqualified twice within 10 years for drink-driving; or
- been disqualified for failing to provide a specimen for analysis,

we will send you a letter before the disqualification ends to explain that you will need to have a **medical examination** to get your licence back. You will also pay a higher fee for re-issue of your licence.

Mutual Recognition of driving disqualifications between:

Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB)

Since 11 October 2004, the following has applied.

- Disqualifications given in Great Britain will apply in Northern Ireland.
- As a result of a change in legislation, from April 2009 Northern Ireland licence holders will no longer need to apply for a GB counterpart to take advantage of the fixed penalty system as they had to do previously.
- A GB licence can be revoked under the Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.
- A GB licence can be revoked because of a disability.

If you are disqualified until tested and are required to complete an extended driving test, you can only be retested in the location in which the offence was committed – ie; GB or NI. If this is in NI, you must be a resident of NI in order to take this test.

Similar rules came into force in Great Britain at the same time as those made in Northern Ireland.

Isle of Man

Since 23 May 2005, disqualifications recognised between Great Britain and Northern Ireland have also been recognised in the Isle of Man.

This means that drivers disqualified from holding a driving licence in Great Britain or Northern Ireland since 23 May 2005 will also be disqualified from driving, holding or getting a driving licence in the Isle of Man.

Similarly, if a court in the Isle of Man disqualifies a driver they will also be disqualified from driving in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Offences recognised under Mutual Recognition for NI licence holders

GB09 NI drivers disqualified in Great Britain

GB09 NI drivers revoked under the New Drivers Act in Great Britain

GB09 NI drivers disqualified in Isle of Man.

Mutual Recognition of driving disqualifications between:

United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland (IRL)

Mutual recognition of driving disqualifications between UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and IRL came into force on 28th January 2010.

- A driver normally resident in UK but disqualified in IRL may also be disqualified in UK. Likewise, a driver normally resident in IRL but disqualified in UK may also be disqualified in IRL.
- When a UK resident is disqualified on the basis of a disqualification in IRL, the licence will be endorsed for a period of 4 years from the date of the conviction.
- Disqualifications as a result of accumulating penalty points (totting-up) are not included in this scheme.

Offences falling within 6 categories of driver behaviour are mutually recognised between UK and Ireland. These are:

- IRL01 Reckless or dangerous driving (whether or not resulting in death, injury or serious risk).
- IRL02 Wilful failure to carry out the obligation placed on drivers after being involved in road accidents (hit and run).
- IRL03 Driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other substance affecting or diminishing the mental and physical abilities of the driver.
- IRL04 Driving a vehicle faster than permitted speed.
- IRL05 Driving a vehicle whilst disqualified.
- IRL06 Other conduct constituting an offence for which a driving disqualification has been imposed by the state of offence of a duration of 6 months or more.

Short-period disqualifications (SPD)

If you are disqualified for less than 56 days, the court will stamp your paper counterpart and give it back to you. The stamp will tell you how long you are disqualified for. You do not need to renew your licence when the disqualification ends. You can drive again the day after the disqualification ends.

Further information

The Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and you

The DPA gives you the right to see the information we hold about you. To see the information you should write to us, enclosing a cheque for £5 made payable to DVA at:

**DVA Coleraine
Driver Licensing
County Hall
Coleraine
BT51 3TB**

You must include your full name, address, and driver number.

DVA processes personal information in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and associated legislation. Your personal information will not be shared with other government departments unless we are satisfied that legal powers allow this. Personal data will not be shared with private sector organisations for entitlement checking without your consent.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 explained

Since 1 January 2005, the Freedom of Information Act (2000) has given you a general right of access to information held by public authorities.

To ask for information you should write to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB or email: DVA-FOI@doeni.gov.uk. We will provide the information that we hold, unless it is exempt, within 20 working days. Examples of when information cannot be released include where it would be sensitive to a business, relates to security or law enforcement or if it relates to personal information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities have to provide a 'Publication Scheme'. DVA's Publication Scheme may be found on our website at:

www.dvlni.gov.uk/publications.htm

Where to get more advice on driving licences

If you have any questions about driving licences, you can find more details on our website at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing

You can also contact us in the following ways.

Phone (Customer Enquiries): 0845 402 4000 (lines are open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)

Fax: 02870341398 (from the UK), +44 2870341398 (from abroad)

Email: dvlni@doeni.gov.uk

We cannot provide driver numbers or personal information from a driver's record by email.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and have a textphone, you should phone **02870341380**. **This number will not respond to an ordinary phone.**

DVA service standards

We aim to always give you the best possible service. If you are not satisfied with our service, get in touch with the person or section you have been dealing with.

If you would like a copy of Customer Service Guide INF101(NI), see the contact details shown below or download it from our website at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/customerservicesguide.pdf

So we can monitor our service, please tell us:

- when we have done something well
- if we have failed to meet our service standards
- how we could improve our services, or
- if you have any comments on this or any other DVA document.

Please write to:

Customer Services Manager
DVA Coleraine
BT51 3HS

Email: dva.customerservices@doeni.gov.uk

How to become a blood donor

The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) is responsible for the collection, testing and distribution of over 64,000 blood donations each year. NIBTS exists to fully supply the needs of all hospitals and clinical units in the province.

The NIBTS depends on its donors to give blood regularly.

If you are interested in becoming a blood donor, or you want to find out more details you can contact the NIBTS in the following ways:

Visit the website at:

www.nibts.org

Phone: 028 9032 1414 or textphone 028 9024 7515

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