

February 2010

Welcome to the first edition of *Update* for 2010. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year and hope that 2010 will be a safe one for all. This edition provides you with an update on a number of issues including the appointment of the Agency's new Chief Executive, mandatory display of licences, a new EU Services directive, ISA, and our colleagues in Road Safety Division have provided a contribution on the forthcoming consultation on Graduated Driver Licensing and L & R scheme.

I hope you find the contents of this edition of *Update* both interesting and informative.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Brendan Magee, the Agency's former Chief Executive retired on 17 December 2009 and Stanley Duncan took up the post with effect from 23 November 2009.

Some of you may already know Stanley as he was previously Chief Executive of Driver Vehicle Testing Agency prior to taking up his post as Head of Road Safety Division on 1 April 2007.

He extends his best wishes to you all and hopes over time to meet a number of you at different events / meetings.

MANDATORY DISPLAY OF LICENCES

The Agency is continuing to liaise with Departmental Solicitors in relation to the commencement of the legislation for mandatory display of ADI licences. The licences, of those who have forwarded photographs, are already printed and whilst we appreciate you are keen to receive your new licence, it would not be good practice to issue licences which quotes legislation not yet commenced.

The new Legislation, when introduced, will make it mandatory to display ADI Certificates but not PDI Licences. However, all PDIs will be issued with a new style licence and it will be up to them if they display or not.

The Agency would like to thank all ADIs that have already forwarded their photographs and appreciate your continued patience in this regard and ask those, who have not yet forwarded photographs, to do so as soon as possible.

UNREGISTERED INSTRUCTION

In our continued efforts to encourage the use of registered instruction, a further back of bus advertising campaign was run at considerable cost to the Agency during November / December for a period of six weeks. Whilst the Agency has no remit to deal with reported bogus instructors as this is a matter for the PSNI, DVA continues to make every effort to educate learner drivers to check and ensure their instructor is approved and registered by the Department.

The campaign covered cities and provincial towns throughout Northern Ireland. The learning to drive leaflet which is continuing to issue with all provisional licences advises what steps to take when planning to learn to drive and engaging a driving instructor.

If anyone has evidence of suspected unregistered instruction they may write to the Agency, who will pass on the information to the PSNI or they may contact their local DINAC representative who will be able to provide the name of the PSNI Road Policing Inspector, to allow further investigation.

INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUTHORITY (ISA)

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme was introduced in Northern Ireland on 12 October 2009.

The scheme will replace existing vetting arrangements for those working with children and vulnerable adults. It will introduce a register of children's and vulnerable adults' workforces and a process of continuous monitoring.

DVA is not a Regulated Activity Provider (RAP) and currently, ISA registration is not part of the 'fit and proper person' check, so we are therefore not legally obliged to consult the ISA register or require ADIs /PDIs to be on it.

However Driving Schools who employ ADIs are considered Regulated Activity Providers and as such must ensure their employees are ISA registered. Supervising ADIs who make arrangements for people to provide driving lessons (e.g. Trainee Licence Holders and ADIs in some cases) are also Regulated Activity Providers.

There are a number of important dates and these are set out below:

- **26 July 2010-** you can begin to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)
- **1 November 2010-** you must register new starts and movers working in regulated activity.
- **1 April 2011-** you can begin to register existing staff working in regulated activity.
- **2014-** you can register individuals working in controlled activity.
- **July 2015-** everyone working in regulated or controlled activity must be registered with ISA.

This means there is a 5 year period between July 2010 and July 2015 to get everyone working in regulated activity registered with ISA. All applications for ISA Registration must go through Access NI and the cost of ISA Registration is £58.00.

Further information can be obtained on the ISA website www.isa-gov.org. Information is also available on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPSNI) website www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/svg.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

The Agency is developing an on-line booking service for first time applicants and for those ADIs from other EU member states that require an exchange of their licence. It is anticipated that this new facility will be available within the next few months.

Further information including the download of application forms will be available on the Agency's website www.dvani.gov.uk

DINAC MEETING

Since the issue of the last edition of *Update* there has been one meeting between the Agency and the Driving Instructors National Association Council (DINAC). At the meeting there was a presentation from Planning Service who provided information on the legislation governing mobile advertising. It was agreed that DINAC would be given details of contacts in different areas who should be contacted if you have concerns about advertising. Further details are available on their website www.planningni.gov.uk

A presentation was also given by the British Deaf Association on deaf awareness training and it was agreed that the Deaf Society would liaise with some instructors to ascertain if it would be possible to develop a purpose built course for Driving Instructors which you could undertake if interested.

DINAC meetings continue to be a useful forum for the Agency and the ADI industry to discuss a range of topics of mutual interest.

DINAC REPRESENTATIVES

It has been brought to my attention that some instructors are not aware of their local DINAC representative so the list below gives details of Associations affiliated and their representatives.

DINAC Chair	Billy Marks
Armagh ADI Association	Moya McLeod
DIANI	Tom Burns
EAADIA	John Penrose
Fermanagh ADI Association	Frances McGoldrick
Mid-Ulster ADI Association	Seamus Higgins
Newry & Mourne ADI Association	Gerard Brown

Northern Ireland ADI Association (NIADIA)	Lisa Mann
North Down ADI Association	Maria Lynch
North West ADI Association	John Doherty
Omagh & District ADI Association	Kerona Lynch
Portadown & Banbridge ADI Association	David McClements

‘CRASHED LIVES’ ADVERTISEMENTS

Environment Minister Edwin Poots launched a suite of new “Crashed Lives” road safety advertisements on Friday 8 January 2010 in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. There are three adverts in the series, entitled: “Crashed Lives – Jamie”, “Crashed Lives – Kevin” and “Crashed Lives – Champion Advice”. Each advert is a real-life account highlighting our vulnerability on the roads and the devastation of road tragedy.

This approach has never before been used by DOE and is another new initiative in a series of interventions aimed at reducing and preventing road deaths and serious injuries. The new ads are true-life stories of road tragedy and show the pain and courage of the families and individuals who have opened their hearts so profoundly.

It has been DOE’s intention to reflect the reality of road casualties and as such, these adverts are particularly aimed at 17-24 year old males who continue to be over-represented in the fatalities. Likewise, the majority of crashes occur in rural areas and these accounts reflect this reality. The geographic locations highlighted in the testimonies are Coleraine and Newtownbutler.

‘CRASHED LIVES - KEVIN’

In ‘Crashed Lives - Kevin’, his mother June tells how he usually travelled by taxi on a night out, but one tragic night, accepted a lift instead.

She talks of the heartbreaking consequences of making the wrong decision. This is a mother’s personal view on “why it’s no accident” based on her son Kevin’s tragic death while being driven by a drunk-driver.

‘CRASHED LIVES - JAMIE’

In ‘Crashed Lives - Jamie’, his mother Elaine tells of her last conversation with her son before he went out and was killed while speeding.

The key message behind the advert shows how a sequence of bad choices, including speeding, shatters lives and changes everything forever. The account clearly conveys the enormity of the loss of Jamie who had everything to live for with so many choices ahead of him.

‘CRASHED LIVES – CHAMPION ADVICE’

As the British Touring Car Champion, Colin Turkington is a potential role-model for young male drivers in Northern Ireland. His expert testimony repositions speeding on public roads as “madness” while from personal experience he talks about the devastation road death has on a family.

CONSULTATION ON GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING / REVIEW OF “L” and “R” DRIVERS SCHEMES

Northern Ireland has a form of graduated driver licensing (GDL) in that we currently restrict novices in their first year post-test to driving at no more than 45 mph. The same speed limit applies while they are learning to drive. There is a concern that this restriction may be contributing to, rather than reducing casualties because it does not allow new drivers to be trained and gain experience of driving at higher speeds.

To maximise our efforts to reduce road casualties involving young and other newly qualified drivers, the Department will consult in 2010 on proposals to amend the existing 45mph speed restriction on learner and restricted drivers and introduce a new system of GDL to replace the current ‘R’ driver scheme.

It is expected that the consultation will examine a wide range of GDL-related measures including:

- raising or lowering the minimum age for a provisional or full licence;
- setting minimum mandatory learning periods;
- requiring learners to take a minimum number of lessons and/or to practise driving for a minimum number of hours/miles on different types of roads, at night and in a variety of weather conditions;
- providing/requiring skid pan training for learner drivers.
- amending the 45 mph speed restriction for learner and restricted drivers;
- removing the “L” and “R” driver speed restrictions altogether;
- allowing learner drivers to drive on motorways (assuming the speed restriction is abolished);
- introducing passenger restrictions for newly qualified drivers;
- bringing in night-time restrictions for newly qualified drivers;
- increasing the duration of the restricted period for newly-qualified drivers;
- requiring restricted drivers to be supervised in certain situations; and
- introducing an offence-free period for newly qualified drivers before restrictions are lifted.

The Department welcomes the views of ADIs on these issues. If you have any comments you would like to offer at this time please contact Betty Holland at betty.holland@doeni.gov.uk or by telephone on 028 9054 1165.

THE ‘LEARNING TO DRIVE’ PROGRAMME

In May 2008, Driving Standards Agency in GB and the Department Of Environment in NI issued the ‘Learning to Drive’ consultation paper on proposed changes to the driver training and testing system.

The key objective of these proposals, which were supported by substantial research evidence and took an approach based on education and incentivisation, are to reduce the number of young and novice drivers killed or seriously injured by better preparing newly qualified drivers to cope with the challenges of driving unsupervised in modern driving conditions.

Further information on the consultation in GB (www.dft.gov.uk/consultations) and DfT's detailed response to it can be found at: www.dsa.gov.uk/learningtodrive.

In NI the consultation cover page asked for responses to the questions which had been asked in the DfT GB consultation document. In general, responses (6,000 in GB and 13 in NI) favoured the proposed measures although here there were some concerns about the discontinuation of the question bank in the theory test and testing manoeuvres separately from general driving in the practical test.

In the section on strengthening the link between supervising driver and learner, concerns were expressed about the use of a star rating system to enable customers to make an informed choice of instructor, about the use of a record of test readiness and a requirement to have a supervising driver sit in on the practical test. This latter point is to be encouraged under Learning to Drive but at this stage a voluntary approach will be adopted.

Ministers in GB in April 2009 and in NI in December 2009 have therefore agreed to implement a "Learning to Drive" programme designed to strengthen the way that people learn to drive and are tested and to encourage a culture of lifelong learning.

Improvements already introduced in GB include:

- rollout of a new foundation certificate in safe road use providing a solid grounding in road safety and a better understanding of the risks young people face when using any form of transport; and
- the use of case studies in the theory test for car drivers and motorcycle/moped riders to better assess whether learners have understood driving/riding theory

Further improvements currently taking place or planned for GB over the next 12-18 months are:

- a partial credit towards the theory test for car drivers for those students awarded the certificate in safe road use in the form of an abridged theory test;
- a trial to assess the effectiveness of a proposed new learning to drive syllabus and process;
- facilitating the development of a new voluntary learning initiative for drivers of light vans;
- encouraging candidates to be observed on the practical car test enhancing the candidates whole learning experience and continued development;
- introducing into all practical tests for learner drivers an assessment of competence whilst the candidate is driving independently; and

- introducing a new voluntary programme of further learning for new drivers.

Working closely with the Driving Standards Agency who lead on implementation of the “Learning to Drive” programme in GB, DOE’s Road Safety Division and DVA are jointly considering proposals to introduce similar changes in NI. ADIs will be kept updated on developments through this newsletter as plans are drawn up over the coming months.

OVERUSE OF DRIVING TEST ROUTES

The Agency has received complaints from concerned residents regarding the overuse of some driving test routes for carrying out driving lessons and we have provided information below about the particular ‘trouble spot’.

Enniskillen

A complaint has been received from Drumcarron Community Association about the overuse of the Cherrymount Link Road area for driving instruction.

Ballymena

The Agency has received a complaint on behalf of concerned residents regarding the overuse of the Grange Road area by learner drivers.

The Agency designs its’ test routes to minimise inconvenience to residents as far as possible and we expect ADIs to stay off the approved test routes until the latter stages of training. It is fair to say that we all have a responsibility to try and resolve such problems and we would ask you to respond positively to the concerns raised by the residents.

CHARITY EVENT IN AID OF MARIE CURIE NI

The Agency has been asked by two local instructors to bring to your attention a Charity Drive which will take place from 19-22 March 2010 from Land’s End to John O’Groats in memory of Margaret Adair ADI who sadly passed away recently.

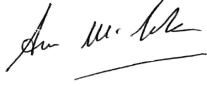
All proceeds will go to Marie Curie NI. If you would like to make a donation you can visit www.justgiving.com/adi-lejog or contact David Johnston ADI or Joe Weir ADI.

As you know the *Update* is not normally used for personal advertising by instructors but given that this is a very worthwhile charitable event in memory of one of your colleagues I am happy to accommodate this request.

COMMENTS

Comments, views or ideas on any of the items mentioned in this *Update* or suggestions for subjects we should cover in future editions would be most welcome. We are happy

to receive these by telephone to 028 9068 5206, email to angie.mcclenaghan@doeni.gov.uk or by letter to Angie at DVA, Balmoral Road.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann McCabe', with a horizontal line underneath.

ANN McCABE
ADI Registrar