

Keeping senior drivers on the road

From the age of 75, the RMS requires drivers to have a medical examination each year to retain their licence. A form will be sent to the driver approximately eight weeks before their birthday. This must be filled in by a doctor. If they consider the driver fit to drive, this form will be mailed back or taken to a motor registry.

If the driver is considered unfit to drive, the doctor may refer them for a Driving Assessment. The doctor will send the form directly to the RMS and the driver will be notified about the outcome.

From the age of 85, drivers must decide whether to keep their unrestricted licence or switch to a modified licence.

Keeping an unrestricted licence means completing a practical Driving Test or Assessment.

Modified licence holders are not required to do this. Through negotiation with the RMS, a driving radius or a 'home to town' restriction will be put in place for them.

A Driving Test or Assessment must be completed before the driver's 85th birthday and then every two years after that.

A Driving Test is carried out by the RMS at a local motor registry at no charge. This practical test contains eight 'fail items'* and if a driver commits one, the RMS will not pass them. Drivers have three attempts to pass, otherwise they lose their licence permanently.

A Driving Assessment is carried out on a 'fee for service' basis by a licensed driving instructor who holds a Senior Assessor Qualification. It can be conducted within the driver's local area. Drivers can have as many assessments as they like, as long as they don't perform a 'serious fail'* and pass prior to their birthday.

Drivers can have a refresher lesson before their Driving Test or Assessment. These update drivers on the road rules, provide feedback on the areas of improvement, and increase knowledge on the 'fail items'.

[*A list of the 'fail items' can be found in the Guide to Older Driver Licensing from the RMS. A 'serious fail' is recorded where it represents a danger to the driver and road users.]

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