

## Synopsis of Responses to the Learning to Drive Consultation (consultation issued May 2008\*)

|           | <b>Name of Respondent</b>                                   | <b>Date of Response</b> | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>Departmental Response</b>  |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>1.</b> | Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People | 30 May 2008             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend that any new process for learning to drive give full consideration to cross border elements of road safety.</li> <li>• Strongly encourage DOE to develop plans for Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) in Northern Ireland (NI).</li> <li>• Supports the range of changes in the consultation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In early 2011 the Department will publish the outcome of the review of the effectiveness of GDL and proposals for the introduction of a system of GDL in NI. In doing so it will engage closely with NICCY and with children and young people themselves.</li> </ul> |
| <b>2.</b> | Moyle District Council                                      | 11 June 2008            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not indicate their support or otherwise for the proposals contained in the consultation.</li> <li>• Indicated that they strongly object to any proposed restriction on night-time driving as it would discriminate against night shift workers and part-time members of the emergency services.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department's planned consultation on GDL will consider the use and effectiveness of night-time driving restrictions for new drivers including the provision of exemptions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3.</b> | Cookstown District Council                                  | 12 June 2008            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the proposals in general.</li> <li>• Particularly supportive of restrictions on new drivers in the form of GDL.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>   |

\* See Annex A for a copy of the consultation letter. The Department for Transport's consultation paper and consultation report are available online at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/dsa/Consultation.asp?id=SXA106-A782E405&cat=418>

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| <b>4.</b> | North Down Borough Council  | 4 July 2008             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not indicate their support or otherwise for the proposals contained in the consultation.</li> <li>• Indicated their support for the abolition of the 45mph speed limit for R drivers and the introduction of GDL.</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In early 2011 the Department will publish the outcome of its review of the Learner and Restricted Driver Scheme and specifically the 45mph and will consult on proposals for change.</li> </ul> |
| <b>5.</b> | Morgan Johnson, ADI with Mid-Ulster Institute of Advanced Motorists | 29 July 2008            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not indicate his support or otherwise for the proposals contained in the consultation.</li> <li>• Suggested that NI might follow a similar model to Australia, where novice drivers have to pass more tests in order to get full licence.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>  |
| <b>6.</b> | Belfast City Council  | 29 July 2008            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally supportive of the proposals.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>  |
| <b>7.</b> | Antrim Borough Council  | 12 August 2008          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally supportive of the proposals.</li> <li>• Particularly welcome any proposals relating to young males and newly qualified drivers.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>8.</b>  | Alliance Party             | 19 August 2008          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In favour of modifying the R driver scheme and prioritising novice drivers.</li> <li>• Not in favour of more significant restrictions on novice drivers – prefer to enhance training pre- and post-test.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• In early 2011 the Department will publish the outcome of its review of the Learner and Restricted Driver Scheme and specifically the 45mph and will consult on proposals for change. This consultation paper will consider a range of measures to improve new driver safety including improved driving training.</li> </ul> |
| <b>9.</b>  | Ballymena Borough Council  | 2 September 2008        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully support the proposals.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>   |
| <b>10.</b> | North West ADI Association | 2 September 2008        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadly in favour of the proposals.</li> <li>• Unsure of benefit of candidate feedback system.</li> <li>• Not in favour of rating system for instructors.</li> <li>• Disagree with test readiness certificates as instructors do not let candidates go to test if not ready.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• The Department plans to consult in 2011 on specific proposals to Modernise Driver Training (MDT), including improving the regulation of Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>11.</b> | Omagh District Council     | 2 September 2008        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadly in favour of the proposals.</li> <li>• Not in favour of rating system for instructors as they believe all instructors should be trained to same high standard.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above.</li> </ul>   |

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|            |   |                  |  |  |
|------------|---|------------------|--|--|
| <b>12.</b> | Road Safety Council of Northern Ireland | 3 September 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In favour of many of the proposals.</li> <li>• Disagree with separation of specific driving manoeuvres from general driving test.</li> <br/> <li>• Do not support student workbook to record progress.</li> <li>• Do not support test readiness certificate as potential for abuse.</li> <li>• Do not agree with allowing supervising driver sit in on test.</li> <br/> <li>• Do not support driver discussion groups.</li> <li>• Agree with removal of 45mph speed limit (R driver scheme),</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted will take into account if this measure is to be taken forward although there are currently no plans to do so.</li> <li>• The Department plans to consult in 2011 on specific proposals to MDT, including improving the regulation of ADIs.</li> <li>• The Department sees benefit in allowing supervising drivers, ADIs, family or friends to sit in on the test, and with effect from July 2010 has been encouraging candidates to be observed on the practical car test as a means of enhancing the candidate's learning experience and continued development.</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• In early 2011 the Department will publish the outcome of its review of the Learner and Restricted Driver Scheme and specifically the 45mph and will consult on proposals for change.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>13.</b></p> | <p>Driving Instructors National Associations Council</p> | <p>6 October 2008</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In favour of many of the proposals.</li> <li>• Believe theory test question bank should not be published to prevent “learning by rote”.</li> </ul><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not support star rating system for ADIs.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted - The Driving Standards Agency and DVA have commenced a phased approach to the non-publication of the theory test question bank. To facilitate the non-publication of questions in training materials, it has been decided to firstly randomise the order of answer options as they are currently presented in the both the training materials and the live tests. A randomisation trial has been completed and work has commenced on implementing full randomisation to the car and motorcycle theory tests in May 2011. This will be followed by the removal of the answers from the published training materials, to be replaced by the knowledge to support the question. The last phase aims, by January 2012, to no longer publish any new questions or answers, but create tests from parallel item banks which will be kept secure.</li> <li>• The Department plans to consult in 2011 on specific proposals to MDT, including improving the regulation of ADIs.</li> </ul> |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---|

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|  |  |  |  |   |
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|  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not support training or supervision by anyone other than an ADI.</li> <li>• Believe HP test should be incorporated into practical test.</li> <li>• Marking system should continue to be based on weaknesses.</li> <li>• Only support mandatory workbook and test readiness certificates if signed off by ADI.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not accepted. The Department is persuaded by evidence of a link between safety and supervised practice with those who have more practice have lower collision involvement after licensing. At least 50 hours is considered recommendable. The Department's planned consultation on the Learner and Restricted Driver Scheme and GDL will consider whether learner drivers should be required to have a minimum number of hours/miles of supervised practice.</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|--|---|

Prepared by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland  
March 2008

## ANNEX A



*Road Safety Division*

*Clarence Court*

**10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8GB**

Telephone: (028) 9054 0141  
Facsimile: (028) 9054 0020  
Email: [donald.armstrong@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:donald.armstrong@doeni.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk)  
Text phone: (028) 9054 0642

Your reference:  
Our reference: DO1/08/107555

Date: 23 May 2008

Dear Consultee

### **CONSULTATION ON LEARNING TO DRIVE**

A consultation document, and accompanying papers, has issued in Great Britain by the Department for Transport (DfT), on proposals to reform the way people learn to drive, and the way they are tested. It is believed that these reforms will contribute to a reduction in road deaths and injuries, particularly among newly-qualified drivers.

Driver training, testing and licensing is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, although the process for learning to drive here is currently the same as in Great Britain. It is therefore possible that following the completion of the consultation process, different arrangements may exist in NI and GB.

The GB consultation makes reference in Section 4 to other approaches for addressing the issue of casualties among learner and novice drivers. One such approach is to place restrictions on newly-qualified drivers, in the form of a graduated driver licensing (GDL) scheme. Such schemes have been widely recognised in other countries as having a significant impact on reducing death and injury among drivers during the first 1-2 years of solo driving. At present, GB are not considering the introduction of GDL, as their primary focus is on the period up to and including the driving test.

Northern Ireland has had a form of graduated driver licensing in place for 40 years, in the form of the restricted ("R") driver scheme. The Department has carried out extensive research into the merits of various elements of GDL schemes throughout the world, in the context of reviewing and improving the existing "R" driver scheme. We believe that there will be benefit in modifying the scheme to include other GDL measures which have been successful elsewhere.

The results of our research will form the basis of a separate consultation in Northern Ireland, which will complement the GB consultation on driver training and testing, and provide a holistic view of the future of learning to drive in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland consultation, which it is anticipated will issue in June 2008, will contain proposals on measures such as changing or abolishing the 45 miles per hour speed limit for "L" and "R" drivers; restrictions on night-time driving; restrictions on the age and/or number of passengers which can be carried; and lower drink drive limits for learner and restricted drivers.

Your comments are sought, therefore, on the range of questions asked in the DfT consultation document, a copy of which can be found on the Road Safety Division's website at [www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk). If you would like a hard copy of the document, please contact Emma Roddy (details below) and she will be happy to arrange this. If the papers are not in a format that suits your needs, she can arrange for them to be provided in a suitable format. When considering your response, remember that we will soon be looking for your views on a scheme of GDL.

A list of Northern Ireland consultees is attached.

### **How to Respond**

Responses should be received **no later than 8 September 2008** and should be sent in any of the following ways:-

Write to: **Emma Roddy**  
**Road Safety Policy Branch**  
**Road Safety Division**  
**Department of the Environment**  
**Clarence Court**  
**10-18 Adelaide Street**  
**Belfast**  
**BT2 8GB**

**or**

Email: [emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk)

**or**

Textphone: **028 9054 0642**

When responding, please indicate whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

If you have any questions on this document or attached papers, please contact Emma Roddy on 028 9054 0661 or Catherine Johnston on 028 9054 1173.

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
Room 101  
Regus House  
33 Clarendon Dock  
Laganside  
Belfast  
BT1 3BG

Tel. (028) 9051 1270  
Email to [ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

Or see their website at:

[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**DONALD A ARMSTRONG**

## **CONSULTATION LIST**

### **Road Safety**

Campaign Against Drinking & Driving (CADD)  
Child Accident Prevention Trust  
Christian Road Safety League  
N.I Rider Trainer Scheme  
Road Safety Council of N.I  
Road Trauma Support (RTS)  
RoSPA (N.I)

### **User/Transport Interest**

Disabled Drivers Association  
Driving Instructor Association of Northern Ireland (DIANI)  
Families Bereaved Through Car Crime  
Institute of Advanced Motorists  
Mid-Ulster ADI Association  
Newry & Mourne Driving Instructors Association  
NI Approved Driving Instructors Association  
Northern Ireland ADI Association  
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service  
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service  
North-West ADI Association  
Omagh & District ADI Association  
Translink

### **Motoring Organisations**

British Motorcyclists Federation (NI)  
Motorcycling Union of Ireland  
Ulster Automobile Club

### **Trade Associations/Employees Representative Bodies**

Allianz Insurance (NI)  
Belfast City Centre Management and Chamber of Trade and Commerce  
Confederation of British Industry (N.I)  
Disability Committee of the N.I Committee (ICTU)  
Employers Forum on Disability  
Federation of Small Business (N.I)  
Freight Transport Association (N.I)  
General Consumer Council for N.I  
Institute of Directors (N.I)  
Irish Transport & General Workers Union (N.I)

Local Government Staff Commission  
M.I.R.A.D - The Institute of Registration Agents and Dealers  
Motor Insurers Bureau  
N.I Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux  
N.I Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
N.I Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
National Federation of Self Employed & Small Businesses  
NIPSA  
Retail Motor Industry Federation (N.I)  
Road Haulage Association (N.I)  
UNISON  
Workers Party  
Zurich Insurance (NI)

### **Courts/Legislative Interests**

Bar Council (N.I)  
Belfast City Centre Management & Chamber of Trade & Commerce  
Belfast Law Centre  
Belfast Solicitors Association  
Civil Law Reform Division  
Clerk of Petty Sessions, Magistrates' Court in N.I.  
Committee on the Administration of Justice  
Council of HM County Court Judges in N.I  
Executive Council of the Inn of Courts of Northern Ireland  
Institute of Professional Legal Studies (QUB)  
Law Centre (N.I)  
Law Reform Advisory Committee (N.I)  
Law Society of Northern Ireland  
N.I. Courts Service  
N.I. Resident Magistrates Association  
School of Law (QUB)  
School of Law (UU)  
The Lord Chief Justice's Office (N.I)  
The Office of Law Reform (N.I)

### **Central Government/Local Authority/Agencies**

All NI Members of Parliament  
All NI Members of the European Parliament  
Assembly Library  
Assembly Ombudsman for NI and Commissioner for Complaints  
Association of Local Authorities (N.I)  
Belfast Education and Library Board (B.E.L.B)

City/District/Borough Councils  
Civic Forum (N.I.)  
Commission for N.I.  
Department for Regional Development (Roads Service)  
Department for Social Development  
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development  
Department of Culture Arts & Leisure  
Department of Education for NI  
Department of Employment & Learning  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Department of Finance & Personnel  
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland  
Equality Forum N.I.  
Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland  
N.I. Human Rights Commission  
N.I. Political Parties  
NIO (Central Management Branch)  
NIO (Devolution & Legislation Division)  
North South Ministerial Council – NI Secretariat  
North Eastern Education and Library Board (N.E.E.L.B.)  
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People  
Northern Ireland Local Government Association  
Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions  
Police Federation for N.I.  
PSNI – Road Policing Development Branch  
Rural Community Network  
Rural Development Council  
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives  
South-Eastern Education and Library Board  
Southern Education and Library Board  
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards  
Western Education and Library Board

**Voluntary/Community Groups**

Association of Chief Officers of Voluntary Organisation (ACOVO)  
Carers Northern Ireland  
Child Accident Prevention Trust  
Community Development & Health Network (NI)  
Disability Action  
Multi-Cultural Resource Centre  
N.I. Council on Disability

NI Council for Ethnic Minorities  
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network  
NUS-USI Northern Ireland  
Youthnet NI