

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRANSPORT'S HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND
VISUAL DISORDERS**

HELD ON THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2013

Present:	Mr Ananth C Viswanathan	Chairman
	Professor Christine Dickinson	
	Dr Gordon Plant	
	Mr William D Newman	
	Mr Tom Eke	
	Mr Jonathan Clarke	
	Professor Andrew Lotery	
Lay Members:	Mr David A Edmunds	
	Mr Timothy E H Smart	
Ex Officio:	Dr C Graham	Driver and Vehicle Agency NI
	Mr A Chorley	Civil Aviation Authority
	Ms J Chandaman	Specialist Casework Advice, DVLA
	Mr B Jones	Business Change and Support Manager, DVLA
	Ms Pat Logan	Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Ireland
	Dr B Wiles	Senior Medical Adviser, DVLA
	Dr G B Rees	Panel Secretary/Medical Adviser, DVLA
	Mr S Fraser	Consultant Ophthalmologist, Sunderland Eye Infirmary

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Ms Isabel Coe and from Dr John McCaughan.

2. Chairman's Remarks

- 2.1 The Panel Chairman welcomed professor Andrew Lotery to his first Panel meeting since becoming a member of Panel.
- 2.2 The Panel Chairman welcomed Ms Patricia Logan and Mr Scott Fraser as observers at the meeting.
- 2.3 In addition, the Panel Chairman congratulated Mr David Edmunds on the acceptance of an invitation to stand for a second five year term of office as a lay member of Panel.
- 2.4 Lastly, the Panel Chairman reiterated his thanks to Mr Michael Miller, the previous Panel Chairman, on all his efforts on behalf of Panel.

3. Minutes of Panel Meeting of 14th March 2013

3.1 The minutes of the previous Panel meeting of 14 March 2013 were agreed without amendment.

4. Minutes of Panel Chairmen's Meeting of 20 June 2013

4.1 Panel discussed the minutes of the meeting of Panel Chairmen of 20 June 2013.

5. Update on Six Cases Previously Discussed

5.1 Panel was provided with an update on each of the six cases discussed at its previous meeting of 14 March 2013.

6. New European Standards for Vision and Driving

6.1 Panel considered:

(a) Commission Directive 2009/113/EC of 25th August 2009.

(b) The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

There were discussions about the measurement of the required width of horizontal visual field for Group 2 driving. A width of at least 160° with at least 70° on either side of fixation is required. It was considered that the most lateral points tested by the Humphrey Field Analyser in the "letterbox" described in the Appendix to Chapter 6 in the "At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive", must be included in the assessment of the width of the horizontal visual field.

7. Update on Working Group considering functional adaptation to ordinarily debarring visual field defect

7.1 Panel was provided with an update on the progress of the Working Group.

8. Visual field Testing. What perimeters should be used for the purposes of driver licensing?

8.1 Correspondence from manufacturers and distributors of different ophthalmic instruments was considered. This discussion related to the different characteristics of various perimeters and their ability to measure the visual field required for both Group 1 and Group 2 entitlement. Panel considered that further information is required on this topic and appropriate enquiries will be made.

- 8.2 Currently, for Group 1 driving entitlement if a visual field chart is received by DVLA, then providing it has been plotted using a perimeter that meets the guidelines of the International Perimetric Society, it would be considered by DVLA. If the chart clearly meets the driving standards or clearly does not, then a licensing decision can be made. If the chart is borderline, a visual field test using a Humphrey Field Analyser is commissioned.
- 8.3 Currently, for Group 2 driving, if a visual field chart plotted using a Humphrey Field Analyser clearly does or does not meet the standard, then a licensing decision can be made. If there are missed points very peripherally, close to the horizontal axis, then manual Goldmann perimetry may be commissioned for clarification.
- 8.4 Panel confirmed that a visual field test may be carried out with or without the customer wearing their spectacles. It is helpful for DVLA to be informed if the test was carried out with or without the customer wearing spectacles. DVLA will generally accept the result most favourable to the customer.
- 8.5 For Group 2 driving, if any very peripheral points are missed on a chart plotted while the customer was wearing glasses, a repeat test should be carried out without the customer wearing glasses.

9. Monocularity

- 9.1 This agenda item was postponed to the next Panel meeting.

10. Anti-VEGF Treatment

- 10.1 Panel considered correspondence received on this topic in relation to the questions asked in DVLA questionnaires sent to customers notifying DVLA of a condition that may affect vision. Panel re-affirmed the appropriateness of the DVLA questionnaires.

11. Duration of licences issued to those with glaucoma who meet the driving standards (Group 1) entitlement.

- 11.1 Panel was presented with statistics on the numbers and durations of licences issued by DVLA to those with glaucoma. There was discussion as to whether or not longer duration licences could be issued to some of those with glaucoma (providing they meet the driving standards). Panel considered that further information is required before making a decision on this.

12. Cases for Discussion

- 12.1 Panel considered a total of 7 cases.

Case 1 – Skull base tumour.

Case 2 – Stroke and possible early glaucoma.

Case 3 – Treated diabetic retinopathy and police report.

- Case 4 – Optic nerve drusen.
- Case 5 – Sectorial retinitis pigmentosa.
- Case 6 – Tilted optic discs.
- Case 7 – Retinal detachment.

13. Research

- 13.1 Proposals for research into various aspects of vision and driving had been drafted by the Panel Chairman. These were noted by Panel.

14. Updates

- 14.1 Panel was informed that since its last meeting DVLA has received 97 Summonses against unfavourable licensing decisions. Of these, 11 were vision-related.
- 14.2 Panel was informed that 4 cases had been referred to individual Panel members since the last meeting.

15. Any Other Business

- 15.1 No items were discussed.

16. Date of Next Panel Meeting

- 16.1 Thursday, 27th March 2014.

Dr Gareth B Rees
Secretary to the Vision Panel