



Static visual field defects

Details of the process for applications for a provisional driving licence in those with a static visual field defect.



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In 2002 provision was made, subject to strict criteria being met, for the re-issue of Group 1 (car) driving licences to applicants who had lost their entitlement because of a debarring static visual field defect. Following this, a process was established to allow this concession to be applied to people who wished to apply for, or were holders of, a provisional driving licence. Guidance on this process has recently been updated in line with the current PDAL process.

A process has been established whereby an application can be considered under agreed 'exceptionality' criteria. This will involve DVLA making medical enquiries to confirm that the visual field defect is not caused by a condition considered to be progressive in nature, and that the applicant has fully adapted to the presence of the defect. Of course, DVLA will also need to enquire about any other medical conditions that may be of relevance.

The criteria to be considered as an exceptional case is:

- Defect must have been present for at least 12 months
- Caused by an isolated event or a non-progressive condition
- There must be no other condition or pathology regarded as progressive and likely to be affecting the visual fields
- Sight in both eyes
- No uncontrolled diplopia
- No other impairment of visual function, including no glare sensitivity, contrast sensitivity or impairment of twilight vision
- Clinical confirmation of full functional adaptation.

Any application where an applicant is applying under the agreed exceptional criteria process will need to include evidence showing each point listed above can be met.

If an applicant meets all the required exceptional criteria, DVLA will issue a provisional licence valid for one year, provided the applicant agrees to accept certain conditions.

Applicants will be advised that they must, at all times, be accompanied by a qualified driver, who, in an emergency will be able to take control of the steering and braking functions.

Attached is a list of Driving Assessment Centres applicants can contact to request a list of Approved Driving Instructors in their area.

This provisional licence will allow the applicant to have driving lessons for a period of one-year. Once the instructor can provide a supportive letter stating that the driver has sufficient basic driving competence, the driver can contact DVLA to arrange an on-road assessment at an approved driving assessment centre.

This is not a driving test. It is an assessment designed to demonstrate whether or not the field defect is affecting the person's ability to drive safely. If the assessment is favourable, the driver will be re-issued with an unrestricted provisional licence to enable them to complete their driving instruction and take the theory and practical driving tests in the normal way.

However, if the driving assessment indicates that the field defect is affecting their ability to drive safely, the entitlement will be revoked. Normally no further application would be accepted unless exceptional new clinical support can be provided. However, the driver would of course have the right to appeal such a revocation.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact the Panel Secretary of the Secretary of State's Honorary Advisory Medical Panel on Driving and Visual Disorders at medadviser@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

Area	Centre details
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Birmingham	Centre Name:	RDAC (Regional Driving Assessment Centre)
	Address:	The Gee Centre , Holborn Hill, Birmingham, B7 5JR
	Telephone:	0300 300 2240
	Email:	info@rdac.co.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in Oxford, Northampton, Leamington Spa, Worcester, Cannock, Shrewsbury, Leicester, Hull

Bristol	Centre Name:	Driving and Mobility Centre (West of England)
	Address:	The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2QQ
	Telephone:	0117 965 9353
	Email:	mobserv@drivingandmobility.org
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Yeovil, Sparkford, Weymouth

Chester	Centre Name:	Chester Driveability
	Address:	Off Mannings Lane (North), Chester, CH2 4EU
	Telephone:	01745 584858
	Email:	mobilityinfo@btconnect.com

Colchester	Centre Name:	East Anglian Driveability
	Address:	Unit 7, Wakes Hall Business Centre, Wakes Colne, Colchester, CO6 2DY
	Telephone:	01787 222873
	Email:	kimb@eastangliandriveability.org.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Chelmsford, Campsea Ashe

Derby	Centre Name:	Derby DrivAbility
	Address:	Kingsway Hospital, Kingsway, Derby, DE22 3LZ
	Telephone:	01332 371929
	Email:	dhft.driving@nhs.net
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in - Newark

Edinburgh	Centre Name:	Scottish Driving Assessment Service
	Address:	SMART Centre, Astley Ainslie Hospital, 133 Grange Loan, EDINBURGH, EH9 2HL
	Telephone:	0131 5379192
	Email:	lothian.scottishdrivingassessmentservice@nhs.net

Leeds	Centre Name:	William Merritt Disabled Living Centre
	Address:	Aire House, Town Street, Rodley, Leeds, LS13 1HP
	Telephone:	0113 350 8989
	Email:	info@wmdlc.org
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in - York

Maidstone	Centre Name:	South East DriveAbility
	Address:	The First Floor, Aylesford Logistics Centre, Bellingham Way, Aylesford, ME20 6XS
	Telephone:	0300 013 4886
	Email:	kcht.sedriveability@nhs.net
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Bexhill-on-Sea, Uckfield, Westham, Canterbury, Greenhithe

Manchester	Centre Name:	RDAC Manchester
	Address:	AJ Bell Stadium, 1 Stadium Way, Barton-upon-Irwell, Salford, Greater Manchester, M30 7EY
	Telephone:	0300 300 2240
	Email:	info@rdac.co.uk

Newcastle	Centre Name:	North East Drive Mobility
	Address:	Centre for Neuro-Psychiatry, Walkergate Park, Benfield Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 4QD
	Telephone:	0191 287 5090
	Email:	northeast.drivemobility@ntw.nhs.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in - Penrith

North Wales (Bodelwyddan)	Centre Name:	North Wales Mobility & Driving Assessment Service
	Address:	Disability Resources Centre, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire, LL18 5UJ
	Telephone:	01745 584858
	Email:	northeast.drivemobility@ntw.nhs.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in - Newtown

Sheffield	Centre Name:	William Merritt Centre Sheffield
	Address:	SOAR Works Enterprise Centre, 14 Knutton Road, Parsons Cross, Sheffield, S5 9NU
	Telephone:	0114 303 9030
	Email:	info@wmdlc.org

South London (Carshalton)	Centre Name:	QEF Mobility Services
	Address:	1 Metcalfe Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4AW, (SM5 4NR on satnav)
	Telephone:	0208 770 1151
	Email:	mobility@qef.org.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Leatherhead

South Wales (Cardiff)	Centre Name:	South Wales Mobility & Driving Assessment Service
	Address:	Rookwood Hospital, Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YN
	Telephone:	02920 555130
	Email:	helen@wddac.co.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Pembroke Dock

Southampton	Centre Name:	Wessex DriveAbility
	Address:	Leornain House, Kent Road, Portswood, Southampton, SO17 2LJ
	Telephone:	023 80 554 100
	Email:	enquiries@wessexdriveability.org.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Ferndown, Basingstoke, Salisbury, Newport, Isle of Wight

St Helens	Centre Name:	North West Driving Assessment Service
	Address:	Fleet House, Pye Close, Haydock, WA11 9SJ
	Telephone:	01942 483713
	Email:	mobility.centre@bridgewater.nhs.uk

Thetford	Centre Name:	East Anglian Driveability
	Address:	2 Napier Place, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 3RL
	Telephone:	01842 753029
	Email:	mail@eastangliandriveability.org.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Spalding, King's Lynn, Gorleston, Peterborough, Bodham

Truro, Cornwall	Centre Name:	Cornwall Mobility
	Address:	North Buildings, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, TR1 3LJ
	Telephone:	01872 254920
	Email:	info@cornwallmobility.co.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Penzance, Liskeard, Launceston, Exeter, Holsworthy, Plymouth

Welwyn Garden City, North London	Centre Name:	Hertfordshire Action on Disability Mobility Care
	Address:	The Woodside Centre, The Commons, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4DD
	Telephone:	01707 384 263
	Email:	driving@hadnet.org.uk
	Additional information:	Also able to provide assessments in – Dunstable, South Oxhey

Northern Ireland (Belfast)	Centre Name:	The Northern Ireland Mobility Centre (NIMC)
	Address:	Disability Action, Portside Business Park, 189 Airport Road West, Belfast, Down, BT3 9ED
	Telephone:	02890 297877
	Email:	mobilitycentre@disabilityaction.org