

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND DIABETES MELLITUS

HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2015

Present:

Dr A E Gold	Chair
Dr M D Feher	
Dr I Gallen	
Dr D Flanagan	
Dr P Mansell	
Dr M Evans	
Dr D J C Flower	

Lay Members:

Dr M L Shaw

Observers:

Dr S Mitchell	Civil Aviation Authority
Dr G Roberts	National Programme Office for Traffic Medicine, Dublin

Ex-officio:

Dr S D Rees	Panel Secretary/Medical Adviser, DVLA
Dr B Wiles	Medical Adviser, DVLA
Dr C Maginnis	Medical Adviser, DVLA
Mrs J Leach	Medical Licensing Policy, DVLA
Mrs S Charles-Phillips	Business Change and Support, DVLA
Mr A Burrows	Business Analyst, DVLA
Mrs A Rook	Drivers Services, DVLA
Mr A P Green	Change Specialist, DVLA
Mr L Croucher	Common Services, DVLA

Important: These advisory notes represent the balanced judgement of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel as a whole. If they are quoted, they should be reproduced as such and not as the views of individual Panel members.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Dr Wyn Parry.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 March 2015

2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true account of the proceedings on 17 March 2015.

3. Panel chairman's meeting held on 18 June 2015

The panel welcomed the initiatives to digitalise transaction processes and the transformation programme as 60% of all DM cases may be amenable to online management with appropriate software selections. There was general consensus that all panels work well.

It was noted that some panels have difficulty in recruiting panel members but continuing professional development credits may be part of the reward.

There was discussion about difficulties regarding assessing drivers with dementia.

4. Fitness to drive project

The fitness to drive project is in the process of building an electronic prototype to establish how drivers could notify DVLA of a medical condition via an online channel.

There has been customer research including how customers could tell DVLA about their medical conditions so that it is convenient for the customer. A prototype of potential web pages was discussed but there will also be a paper option for customers who do not have access to a computer. Currently this is concentrated on diabetes and glaucoma in association with Government Digital Services and is restricted to Group 1 licences. There will also be the option for customers to contact DVLA by telephone and get progress updates.

5. Statistics on licensing decisions

The panel considered statistics on licensing decisions and noted the recent reduction in licence revocations for both Group 1 and Group 2 drivers treated with insulin.

6. Blood glucose testing for Group 2 drivers on insulin

The Panel have previously advised that at assessment 3 complete months of blood glucose readings must be available for inspection on a memory meter. They considered a case where because of frequent daily blood glucose testing only 6 weeks worth of readings were available because the memory was full but there was support from a Consultant Diabetologist. The Panel advised that in exceptional cases where if for technical reasons the memory could not hold 3 months worth of readings and an adequate explanation is given by a Consultant Diabetologist then discretion may be given.

7. Independent assessors of Group 2 drivers on insulin

The Panel identified where there are areas with insufficient numbers of assessors and DVLA will try to recruit assessors in these areas. There are currently 60 Independent assessors in Great Britain.

8. Literature review

The Panel considered the paper “Driving and diabetes : problems, licensing restriction and recommendations for safe driving. Clinical Diabetes and Endocrinology 2015. D01 10.1186/s 40842-015-007-3”

9. Any other business

Following a letter from an occupational health Doctor the Panel considered Section 2 (Diabetes Mellitus) of the D4 form which Group 2 drivers are required to have completed by a doctor. They suggested amendments to the form.

The Panel also discussed the CV’s of potential new panel members.

10. Date and time of next meeting.

22 March 2016

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DR S REES BSc MBBS

Medical Adviser and Panel Secretary to the
Honorary Medical Advisory Panel on Driving and Diabetes Mellitus

20 October 2015