



**Minutes of the Secretary of State for Transport's Honorary Medical  
Advisory Panel on Driving and Visual Disorders –  
Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Present:**

Mr A Viswanathan  
Dr T Eke  
Dr G Plant  
Mr W D Newman  
Professor A Lotery  
Professor R Anderson

**Observers:**

Mr I A Pearce  
Dr S Bell  
Mr Colin Graham

**Ex- Officio**

Dr Gareth Rees  
Dr Cathy Armstrong  
Mrs Rachael Toft  
Mrs Chantelle Francis  
Mr David Evan  
Mr Rhys Morgan  
Mrs Lorraine Jones  
Mrs Sharon Abbott  
Mrs Maria Denyer

Panel Secretary  
Joint Panel Secretary  
Driver Licensing Policy DVLA  
Driver Licensing Policy DVLA  
Drivers Medical Complex Casework  
Contract Team DVLA  
Panel Coordinator DVLA  
Business Support Manager DVLA  
Service Management DVLA

**1. Apologies for absence**

P. Logan, Nick Jenkins, Ian Pearce, Colin Graham, Kevin Rees

**2. Chairman's remarks**

The Panel Chairman welcomed Professor Roger Anderson as a new member of Panel.  
The Chairman also welcomed Mr David Evans to his first vision panel meeting.

The Chairman apologised for any difficulty in locating documents within the panel bundle.



### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting held October 2018

Panel agreed the minutes of the previous meeting but Mr Newman advised an amendment to the wording of section 6 after discussion with the Panel Chairman.

Last sentence in paragraph 1 to become a separate paragraph and continue with another sentence:-

Panel considered that DVLA should permit orthoptists, where appropriate, to report independently on diplopia, the treatment of diplopia, and adaption as they have considerable experience in this arena.

Paragraph 2 should become paragraph 3 and simply be the statement: -

It was noted that diplopia only at extremes of gaze is unlikely to be of functional significance.

### 4. Group 2 visual fields

Panel stated it is not aware of any new evidence available to suggest any amendment is needed to the current interpretation of the visual field legislation for either group 1 or group 2 drivers, although it was noted that any new evidence would be considered.

Panel noted that Esterman 4 binocular perimetry does not test points on the horizontal meridian but that the 124point Henson test does.

The results of a recent teleconference were discussed with regard to group 2 visual field charts with peripheral missed points. Panel achieved consensus regarding a licensing decision or further investigation for each of the example charts provided.

Panel reiterated in terms of group 1 driving, that if the number of missed points was concerning on a chart that otherwise meets group 1 standards, a driving assessment should be considered.

### 5. Glare sensitivity

Panel was provided with a very interesting presentation about glare sensitivity. It described how glare symptoms (light scatter) increases with age, reduced



pigmentation in the iris or with pathological changes such as cataract or corneal dystrophies. It also described how stray light and glare could be measured.

A key distinction was identified between disabling glare (where vision is impaired) and discomfort glare (which does not affect vision).

#### **6. Older vulnerable road users – informing Government’s future policy thinking**

Panel was provided with information on the Government’s future policy thinking with regards to different groups of drivers. Panel were advised of the Ministerial announcement made in June 2018. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/road-safety-recent-progress-and-future-work>

#### **7. Research on eyesight issues and road safety**

DfT asked for panel’s advice on this topic.

The Panel Chairman expressed Panel’s interest and willingness to help with any research and asked that panel be advised when their assistance is required.

#### **8. Definition of full functional adaptation**

Panel indicated that its view on how to assess full functional adaptation to hemianopia had been outlined in the findings of its ‘working group’ into this matter. Panel’s view was that it is unreasonable to ask a clinician for confirmation of something for which there is no single test. Panel considered it would be appropriate for full functional adaptation to be assessed based upon self-declaration.

#### **9. Cases**

Four cases were discussed.

#### **10. Review of AFTD**



Panel reviewed 'Assessing fitness to drive – a guide for medical professionals' and considered no changes were required.

#### **11. Research and literature**

Panel indicated it was keen to assist with the DFT led research.

#### **12. Horizon Scanning**

The need for continuous identification of new and emerging research was discussed.

Action point: The panel agreed to establish a literature search to identify suitable papers for review each panel meeting. The panel agreed that the literature review which DFT (led by Catherine Mottram) will conduct as part of its project on vision and road safety would meet this need and they would provide advice on a draft specification and search terms later this year. This literature search could be repeated in later years' once the DFT project is complete- who will be responsible for doing this once the DFT project is complete will be agreed at a future meeting. Panel to advise search terms (MESH terms)

#### **13. Appeals data**

No new vision appeals have been upheld since last meeting.

#### **14. Declaration of member's interests**

Panel members were reminded to keep this up to date.

#### **15. AOB**

Panel considered a Pinhole system with which to assess visual acuity and thanked the correspondent for this submission to the panel.

#### **16. Date of next meeting** - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Driver & Vehicle  
Licensing  
Agency

**Original Draft Minutes prepared by:**

**Dr Gareth Rees  
Panel Secretary  
Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Final Minutes signed off by**

**Dr A Viswanathan  
Panel Chair  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**The DVLA will consider the advice provided by the panel and no changes to standards will take effect until the impact on individuals and road safety is fully assessed.**