



MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S
HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND DISORDERS
OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM
Meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2025

Present:

Panel Members:

Dr Paul Cooper (Chair)	Consultant Neurologist
Professor John Duncan	Professor of Clinical Neurology
Dr Kirstie Anderson	Consultant Neurologist
Dr Wojciech Rakowicz	Consultant Neurologist & Medical Examiner
Mr Julian Cahill	Consultant Neurosurgeon
Dr Jeremy Rees	Neuro-Oncologist
Mr Jonathan Bull	Consultant Neurosurgeon & Complex Spinal Surgeon
Dr Ralph Gregory	Consultant Neurologist
Dr Emily Henderson	Consultant Senior Lecturer in Ageing & Movement
Mrs Natalie Tubeileh-Hall	Lay Member

OBSERVERS:

Dr Sue Stannard	Chief Medical Advisor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Dr Ewan Hutchinson	UK Civil Aviation Authority

EX-OFFICIO:

Dr Nick Jenkins	Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr Amanda Edgeworth	DVLA Doctor
Dr Inigo Perez	DVLA Doctor
Dr Claire Fang	DVLA Doctor
Dr Darren Griffiths	DVLA Doctor
Dr Maria Debritto	DVLA Doctor
Leigh A Bromfield	Driver Licensing Policy Lead
Claire John	Head of Complex Casework and Vocational Drivers Medical
Emma Lewis	Driver Licensing Policy
Claire Hughes	Driver Licensing Policy
Edward Foxell	Driver Licensing Policy
Richard Davies	Service Management
Danielle Theophilus	Service Management
Suzanne Richards	Service Management
Siân Taylor	DVLA Panel Coordinator/PA to the Senior DVLA Doctor
Emma Nelson-Jones	Doctors Casework Management and Support
Michelle Davies	Doctors Casework Management and Support

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Professor Catrin Tudur-Smith
Dr Peter Keston

Professor David Werring
Tom Mogford
Clare Forshaw

Professor of Biostatistics
Consultant & Clinical Lead Diagnostic & Interventional
Neuroradiologist
Professor of Clinical Neurology
Drivers Medical Business Change/Support Lead
Principal Strategy Implementation Manager RSSB

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed all attendees. Panel members were reminded to ensure their declarations of interest were up to date, and that conflicts of interest were to be declared.

3. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

i. Visual Inattention, to discuss the medical standard for visual inattention/neglect

The Panel Chair and Dr Rakowicz met with representatives from the vision panel to discuss guidance regarding visual inattention and associated conditions. Further meetings of the subgroup will take place, and outcomes will be fed back to panel members.

ii. Head Injuries/Traumatic Brain Injury and Group 2 Licensing

In the Autumn 2024 meeting Panel discussed and accepted a proposal for amended Group 2 medical standards for traumatic brain injury.

Dr Perez undertook a subsequent retrospective review and presented data detailing the recommended times off Group 2 driving in those cases previously referred to panel members. Panel noted that only in exceptional cases had the recommended period off driving exceeded the 2-year period currently being proposed for injuries involving the cerebral cortex.

Panel reaffirmed their acceptance of the proposed new standard although noted that, in cases where clinical features suggested very severe injury (e.g. protracted PTA, protracted ventilation on ICU), a period of time longer than 2 years may occasionally be appropriate. Such cases will require individual consideration. Similarly in some cases the prospective seizure risk may fall to an acceptable level earlier than the time period proposed in the medical standard. In such cases relevant evidence provided by the relevant clinician would be considered.

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iii. Brain Tumour Standards

Dr Edgeworth and Dr Rees discussed updates to brain tumour standards, including changes for World Health Organisation (WHO) Grade 1 and 2 meningiomas and the impact of radiological recurrence only on driving restrictions for WHO Grade 3 meningiomas. An additional proposal was the removal of the one-year driving restriction for primary lung cancer patients without brain metastases.

Panel reviewed the updates and were in support of the amendments and removal.

iv. Recommended period off Group 1 driving following anti-seizure medication withdrawal

In the Autumn 2024 meeting panel reviewed the evidence regarding the time required off Group 1 driving following withdrawal of anti-seizure medication. Panel agreed that the evidence indicated that it would be appropriate to reduce the recommended period from 6 months to 3 months, the period commencing following the last dose of medication.

Panel advised that it would similarly be appropriate to reduce the period of time recommended off Group 1 driving following a medication change from 6 months to 3 months.

DVLA will consider the evidence provided and the wider impact of the proposals, to help inform any decision to revise the medical standards in the future.

SECTION B: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Transient Global Amnesia (TGA)

Panel discussed a case which had caused difficulties in determining whether the clinical diagnosis was one of TGA or of Transient Epileptic Amnesia (TEA).

Panel agreed the current medical standard for TGA remains appropriate.

5. Update from other Panels

Panel's attention was directed to the minutes of the Autumn 2024 meetings and the agendas of the Spring 2025 meetings of all advisory panels.

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Section C: Ongoing Agenda Items

6. Test, Horizon Scanning, Research and Literature

DVLA reminded all panel members as part of the terms and conditions of the requirement to update panel regarding any information/tests/research that could impact on standards or existing processes.

Difficulties in accessing GPs/Antiseizure medication: The Panel Chair discussed difficulties experienced by individuals in accessing prescribed antiseizure medication. Driver licensing policy agreed to clarify the classification of seizures due to medication supply issues and determine whether such seizures might be considered to be provoked seizures.

Epilepsy and driving: Two articles were reviewed and discussed by panel.

- Characteristics of motor vehicle crashes associated with seizure Car crash semiology¹
- A prospective study of loss of consciousness in epilepsy using virtual reality driving simulation and other video games².

7. AOB

Deep Brain Stimulation (DPS) for Parkinson's and Parkinsonism: Dr Debritto discussed the medical standards for as they apply to individuals treated with DBS for Parkinson's disease; DVLA requested panel's advice as to how the standards regarding optimisation of settings and absence of neurological impairment should be represented on second series medical questionnaires. Panel discussed and advised that DVLA needed to ensure that in such cases a clear recovery period and an assessment of both cognitive and motor function is required before resuming driving.

Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) and risk of seizures in Group 2 licensing: Panel noted that the current published medical standard requires a 10-year period off Group 2 driving following any form of treatment of incidentally identified (unruptured) supratentorial AVM. It was agreed that a subgroup would be convened to discuss whether this standard is appropriate.

¹ Neal A, Carne R, Odell M, Ballek D, D'Souza WJ, Cook MJ. Characteristics of motor vehicle crashes associated with seizure: Car crash semiology. *Neurology*. 2018 Sep 18;91(12):e1102-e1111. doi: 10.1212/WNL.0000000000006208. Epub 2018 Aug 22. PMID: 30135255.

² Yang L, Morland TB, Schmits K, Rawson E, Narasimhan P, Motelow JE, Purcaro MJ, Peng K, Raouf S, Desalvo MN, Oh T, Wilkerson J, Bod J, Srinivasan A, Kurashvili P, Anaya J, Manza P, Danielson N, Ransom CB, Huh L, Elrich S, Padin-Rosado J, Naidu Y, Detyniecki K, Hamid H, Farooque P, Astur R, Xiao B, Duckrow RB, Blumenfeld H. A prospective study of loss of consciousness in epilepsy using virtual reality driving simulation and other video games. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2010 Jul;18(3):238-46. doi: 10.1016/j.yebeh.2010.04.011. PMID: 20537593; PMCID: PMC2914099.

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Comorbidities/Multimorbidity and Driving: DVLA and panel highlighted the need for a holistic approach to assess drivers with multiple medical conditions, and this would require collaboration between panels.

Recruitment: Driving licensing Policy provided a recruitment update noting the need for expertise in dementia and cognition, and the potential for co-opting specialists when needed. Panel requested a member with expertise in dementia and cognition, considering both neurological and psychiatric backgrounds.

8. Date and Time of next Meeting

Thursday 16th October 2025

Original draft minutes prepared by:

Siân Taylor
Note Taker
Date: 17/03/25

Final minutes signed off by:

Dr P N Cooper
Panel Chair
Date: 16/04/25

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.

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