



**MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S
HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND
SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND DRIVING
Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2025**

Present:

Panel Members:

Dr David Fox (Chair)	Consultant Occupational Physician
Dr Stephen Morley	Consultant in Chemical Pathology
Dr Edward Day	Consultant in Addiction Psychiatry
Mr James Nutt	Laboratory Operations Manager
Dr Richard Aspinall	Consultant Hepatologist
Mrs Natalie Tubeileh-Hall	Lay Member

OBSERVERS:

Professor Denis Cusack	Medical Bureau of Road Safety, Forensic Medicine, Ireland
Dr Mark Cairns	Civil Aviation Authority
Dr Sue Stannard	Chief Medical Advisor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency

EX-OFFICIO:

Dr Nick Jenkins	Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr Amanda Edgeworth	Deputy Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr Terry Greene	DVLA Doctor
Dr Rajiv Ghose	DVLA Doctor
Leigh Andrew Bromfield	Driver Licensing Policy Lead
Carly Murray	Driver Licensing Policy
Andrew Harper	Driver Licensing Policy
Emma Lewis	Driver Licensing Policy
Dewi Richards	Driver Licensing Policy
Danielle Theophilus	Service Management
Mandy Hodgson	Commercial Category Lead
Shareen Gelstharp	Commercial Specialist
Adam Cattroll	Commercial Specialist
Rhodri Llewellyn	Commercial Practitioner
David Snelling	Policy Team Leader, Road Policing Team, DFT
Emma Nelson-Jones	Doctors Casework Management and Support Lead
Siân Taylor	DVLA Panel Coordinator/PA to Senior DVLA Doctor

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from,

Dr Robert Searle

Clare Forshaw

Dr Bhagat Sharma

Tom Mogford

Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine

Principal Strategy Implementation Manager RSSB

Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist

Senior Lead, Drivers Medical Business Support and Change

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed panel members and thanked them for their continued help and support they provide to the panel.

3. Matters Arising/Actions of the previous meeting

i. Drug Misuse and Dependence

The Senior DVLA Doctor reviewed the minutes of the Spring 2025 meeting and invited further discussions regarding persistent drug misuse and/or dependence.

The Panel was asked to consider the following:

- Whether the current definition of persistent drug misuse remains appropriate.
- Whether the existing medical standard for persistent drug misuse and/or dependence is appropriate.
- Whether the Panel considers DVLA's current processes for drug-related medical enquiries to be appropriate.

Panel members discussed and advised that subgroups should be convened to review the current situation and provide advice to DVLA on these matters.

SECTION B: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Department of Transport Update

Mr Snelling (Department for Transport) advised that the Government takes road safety seriously. The Government is committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads.

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The Government is considering a range of policies under the new strategy; the first for 10 years. This includes the case for changing the motoring offences, such as drink driving.

5. Update from other panels

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

SECTION C: ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

6. Appeals Data

DVLA provided an update on appeals figures from the 1st September 2024 to 1st August 2025.

Drivers Medical received 92 alcohol or drug related appeals.

- Alcohol Cases 54
- Drugs Cases 38
- Cases upheld 0

Panel thanked DVLA for the update.

7. Tests, Horizon Scanning, Research and Literature

DVLA reminded all panel members as part of the Terms and Conditions and of their obligation to update panel about any information/tests/research that could impact on standards or existing processes.

Panel Chair advised panel members to take the opportunity to review the AFTD.

8. AOB

- i. Chief Medical Officer, Maritime and Coastguard Agency discussed a revision of the medical fitness guideline for seafarers. The Chief Medical Advisor shared background information on the scope and responsibilities of the Agency, as well as the potential impacts and legal considerations.

The Panel thanked the Chief Medical Advisor for her valuable input. She welcomed any follow-up questions and advised panel members to contact her directly with queries.

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- ii. Driver Licensing Policy provided a recruitment update. A new campaign is planned for January. Please can panel provide suggestions to expertise requirements. Panel will email any further requirements not noted at the meeting

9. Time and Date of next meeting

Wednesday 18th March.

Original draft minutes prepared by:

**Sian Taylor
Note Taker
Date: 23/10/25**

Final minutes signed off by:

**Dr David Fox
Panel Chair
Date: 10/11/25**

**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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