

# GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING

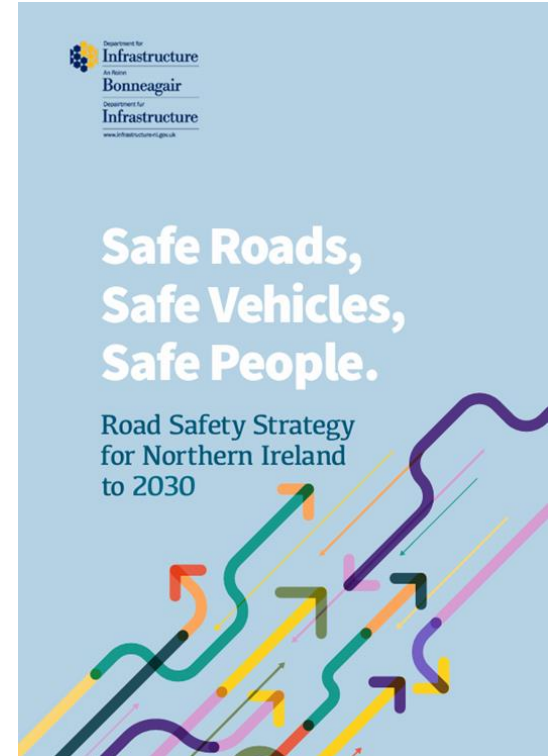


# What is Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)?



**GDL is a phased approach to driver licensing designed to improve road safety for new drivers and riders, particularly young drivers aged 17-23 who are disproportionately represented in fatal road traffic collisions.**

**It introduces a longer restriction period of two years and requirements such as a supervised mandatory minimum learning period of 6 months, limits on night-time driving, and passenger numbers.**



# Why is GDL being introduced in NI?

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In 2024, there were 164 casualties (killed or seriously injured) from collisions where a car driver aged 17-23 was responsible.

This age group of drivers accounts for 24% of fatal or serious collisions despite holding just 8% of licences.

Also in 2024, there were 12 casualties (killed or seriously injured) from collisions where a motorcyclist aged 17-23 was responsible

# Evidence to support GDL

- Research carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) show GDL systems reduce collisions involving young people and fatalities by 5-40% depending on the strength of the GDL components being implemented.
- Countries like Australia, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland and parts of the US have seen significant improvements in road safety after adopting GDL.



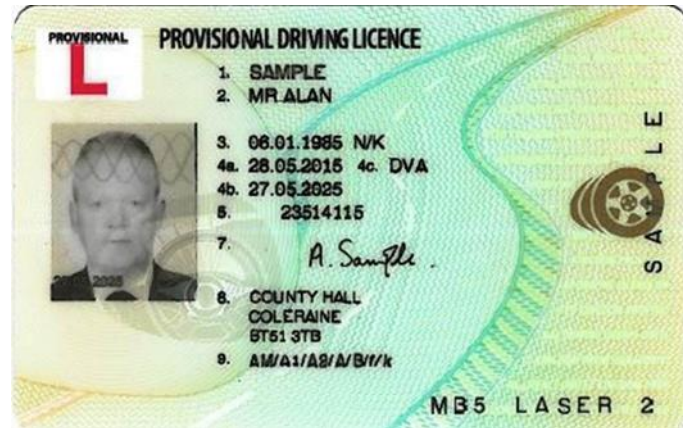
# What are our GDL proposals ?

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- A Mandatory Minimum Learning Period of 6 months (cars only)
- Removing the 45mph speed restriction for learners and new, qualified drivers
- A Programme of Training for learners, and a Learner Logbook
- A new 'R' plate and a longer restriction period
- Passenger protection for newly qualified drivers (cars only)

# Mandatory Minimum Learning Period

- From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026, a Learner Driver needs to have held their Provisional Car entitlement for a period of 6 months before they can take their practical driving test.



# Removing the 45mph speed restriction

- Learner drivers who have a provisional entitlement that begins after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026, can be trained to drive up to the posted speeds and will not be restricted to 45mph.
- This will also allow learners to be trained on motorways by an Approved Instructor.

# GDL Programme of Training and Logbook

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The Programme of Training and Logbook will be delivered via a digital solution ie App or web browser



Learners can download the Digital Programme of Training and Logbook App



The Learner will grant access to their Programme of Training and Logbook to their Approved Instructor or Supervisor Driver

# GDL Programme of Training and Logbook



The Learner will complete their Programme of Training and Logbook with their Approved Instructor /Supervisor Driver



The Approved Instructor/Supervisor Driver will sign off each learning Module, each Training record and Logbook

# Car Learning Modules

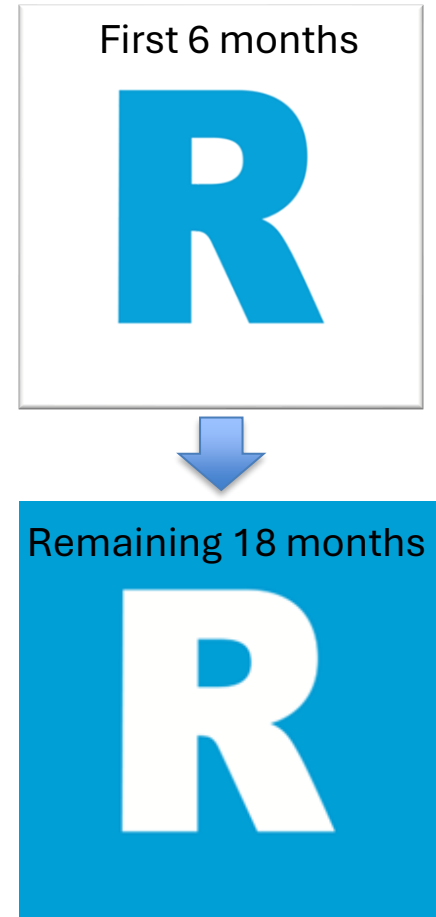


M1 – The driver	M8 – Vulnerable and other road users
M2 – The vehicle	M9 – Speed awareness
M3 – The law	M10 – Manoeuvring your vehicle
M4 – Risk and hazard awareness	M11 – Driving in adverse weather conditions
M5 – Controls and checks	M12 – Night time driving
M6 – Driving on the road	M13 – Driver distraction and in car technology
M7 – Road sharing	M14 – Ecosafe driving and the environment

# New 'R' plate

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There will be a longer restriction period from **12 months to 24 months** and will require new drivers to display a distinguishing mark ('R' plate) on the vehicle for **24 months after upgrading to a full licence.**



# Passenger Protections

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- New drivers, up to age 24, will be restricted to carrying one passenger for the initial six months post-test period between the hours of 23:00 and 06:00 hours.
- This will apply to passengers aged 14-20, with an exemption for immediate family members.
- Additionally, the passenger restrictions will not apply if there is an accompanying person in the front seat who is aged 21 years or older, and who has held a full driving licence for three years.

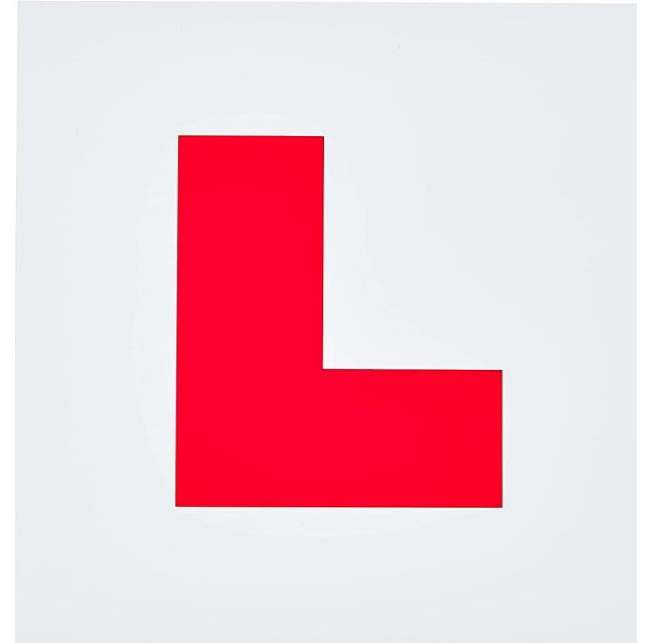


# Current 'L' Drivers

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A transitional period of 6 months (1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027) will allow current Learner Drivers to continue their learning journey without undertaking the GDL requirements

45 mph restriction remains during this 6 months  
– no learning on motorway



# Current 'R' Drivers

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Drivers whose restricted period goes beyond 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 are not affected by the new GDL proposals.

The Amber R will remain valid for the 12 months after you have passed your test.



# Thank you

- FAQs

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/graduated-driver-licensing-faqs>

- Queries or Feedback contact

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