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Information on Driving after Brain Injury or illness

Your obligations

You have a legal responsibility to notify the DVLA if you have any condition which may affect your ability to drive safely. Referral to Cumbria Community Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team (CCABIRT) Service usually means your injury is severe enough for you to have to tell the DVLA. If you are unsure about whether or not you should be driving, please discuss this with your GP.

How do I inform the DVLA?

You should contact the DVLA by phone, letter or email, telling them briefly what has happened to you. A member of the brain injury team can help you with this if needed. You should include your driving licence number. You do not need to send your licence off as well.

- Telephone: 0300 790 6806 (Mon–Fri, 8.00 am to 5.30 pm and Sat, 8.00 am to 1.00 pm)
- Post: address the letter to Drivers' Medical Enquiries, DVLA Swansea, SA99 1TU
- Email: eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

What Happens Next?

- The DVLA will normally send you a medical questionnaire (B1 form) asking you to give details of your injury and how it affects you. To save time you can get this from <https://www.gov.uk/brain-injury-and-driving>
- They will ask you to give permission to contact your GP and/or your consultant. If you refuse to give permission, they can legally and automatically take away your licence.
- The DVLA will use the information you provide and, if needed, will contact your GP or consultant, requesting more details
- Trained staff and medical advisors who make the licensing decisions consider all the information. They work to guidelines issued by the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel.
- The DVLA aim to respond within 3 months and you will be notified in due course of their decision.

What Can The DVLA Decide?

They can conclude one of the following:

- You may resume driving immediately (if you had previously been told not to drive).
- They can impose some restrictions on you e.g. you cannot drive until you have had one year free of epileptic fits.



- They may give you a licence that is only valid for a set period, e.g. 3 years. You will not have to pay to renew your licence if they do this.
- They can ask for an assessment at a Mobility Assessment Centre.
- They can stop you driving for a set period, e.g. a year if they think you need more time to recover. It is your responsibility to re-apply for your licence at the end of this period.

Can I Appeal Against Any Decision?

The DVLA will explain why they made the decision and when you can reapply for your licence (if this is suitable). They will also send you a notice which will explain your right to appeal to a magistrates' court.

Further Information

- The Headway booklet 'Driving after Brain Injury' provides further information. Contact the Headway Helpline on 0808 800 2244 for details.
- More information about driving with a health condition can also be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions>
- It may also be useful to discuss your situation with your GP.

The information in this leaflet is aimed at car drivers; the system may vary for drivers of other vehicles such as lorries, buses and coaches where regulations are much stricter.

Contact Us

Cumbria Community Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team (CCABIRT)
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Cedarwood, Carleton Clinic, Cumwhinton Drive, Carlisle, CA1 3SX Tel: 01228 602155

1st Floor, Barclays House, Murley Moss Business Village, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7RL Tel: 01539 718118

If you would like this factsheet in another language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio, please call:

01228 603890

E: communications.helpdesk@cumbria.nhs.uk

Or write to Engagement and Communications
Voreda House | Portland Place | Penrith | CA11 7QQ



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