



Department for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

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9 December 2025

Dear Mr Cohen

Thank you for your report made under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquests you conducted into the deaths of Neil Errington, Gareth Evans and Patricia Mary Evans. I am replying as the Minister responsible for road safety and I am grateful for the opportunity to consider and respond to the concerns you have raised.

I was very sorry to learn of the tragic circumstances surrounding the deaths of Mr Errington and Mr and Mrs Evans and I extend my sincere condolences to their families.

I have considered your report and the concerns you have raised very carefully. Your report raises concerns about the effectiveness and safety of the self-declaration process for notifying medical conditions that may affect driving and the potential for drivers to not notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of a medical condition.

All drivers must ensure they meet the required medical standards for driving at all times and are legally required to tell the DVLA about the onset or worsening of a condition that could affect this.

While the legal responsibility to notify the DVLA rests with the driver, the DVLA will also act on information provided by the police, healthcare professionals, friends, relatives or neighbours and such notifications are treated as a high priority. When a notification is received the DVLA will initiate an investigation. This may include gathering information from the driver, obtaining information from their doctor, commissioning a medical examination or requiring a driving assessment. Only drivers who can meet the required medical standards will be issued with a licence.

Healthcare professionals play a crucial role in the licensing process and should advise patients on how their condition or treatment may impact their fitness to drive and when the patient is required to inform the DVLA. To support healthcare professionals, the DVLA publishes guidance called 'Assessing Fitness to Drive – a guide for medical professionals', which is available on GOV.UK. The DVLA also offers a dedicated email service through which healthcare professionals can seek case-specific or general advice from the DVLA's team of doctors.

While healthcare professionals are not legally obliged to notify the DVLA about a patient who has a medical condition that may affect their fitness to drive, guidance from the relevant regulatory bodies advises medical professionals that they can notify the DVLA of a patient's medical condition in the interests of the safety of the patient and the wider public. The General Medical Council (GMC) provides guidance to doctors regarding circumstances where it is justifiable to notify the DVLA of a patient's medical condition. The guidance advises that where doctors are aware that an individual has not understood their advice or has chosen to continue driving despite their advice, a notification to the DVLA in the public interest does not breach patient confidentiality.

Although the self-declaration process for notifying medical conditions to the DVLA is intended to empower drivers to take personal responsibility for their fitness to drive, I recognise that some drivers wilfully ignore medical advice and will not notify the DVLA and continue driving. This can have potentially devastating consequences. Officials will carry out a comprehensive review of the self-declaration forms and consider ways to further raise awareness of the importance of notifying conditions to the DVLA and the potential far reaching consequences of failing to do so. Officials will also continue to engage with healthcare professionals and their regulatory bodies to reinforce the importance of notifying the DVLA if their patient lacks the capacity or willingness to inform the DVLA of their condition themselves.

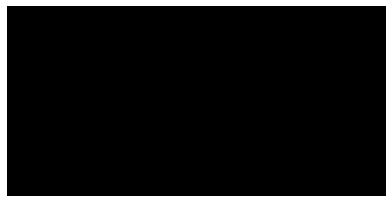
My department also recognises that the volume and complexity of driving licence applications for those with one or more medical conditions is increasing, reflecting both an ageing population and a strong desire among drivers to maintain the independence that driving provides. We are reviewing the evidence already gathered alongside the findings from recent inquests. As part of this work consideration will be given to the process of self-declaration.

Thank you for raising these important issues. I can assure you that the Government takes road safety very seriously and we are focused on ensuring that only those who are fit and safe to drive are issued with a driving licence.

Road safety measures have not been reviewed for over a decade and my department is developing a Road Safety Strategy which will include a broad range of policies and will set out more details in due course.

I am sure you will appreciate that policy development in such an important area as this is inherently complex and involves a wide range of stakeholders. I can assure you this work is being treated as a priority and we are committed to delivering meaningful improvements to road safety and to preventing further avoidable tragedies.

Best wishes,



MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROAD