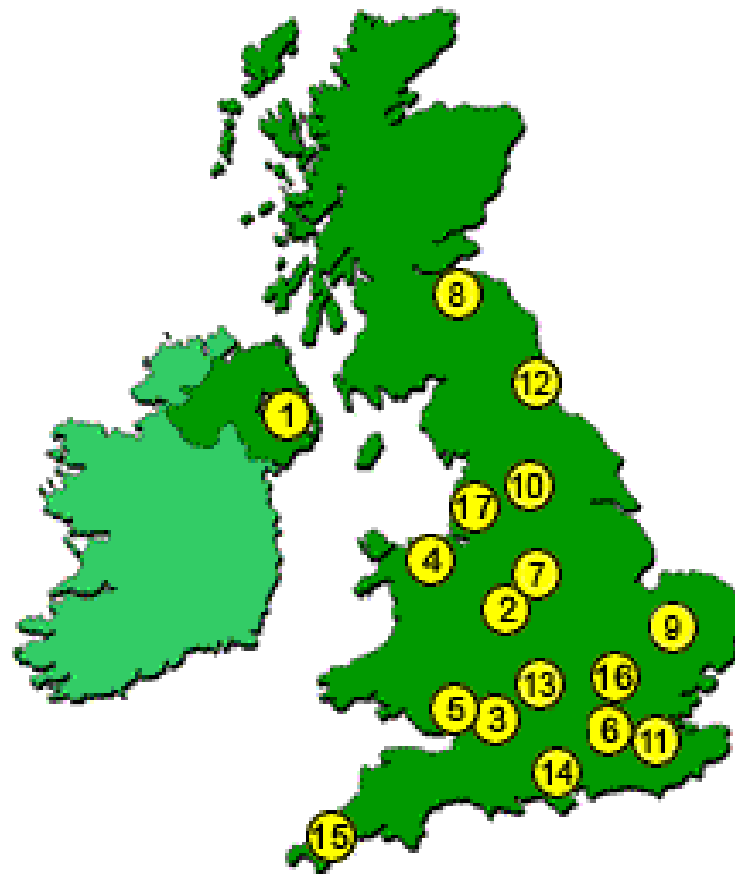




Driving Mobility

Medical Fitness to Drive assessment and the role of the Driving Mobility Centres in UK



Anu Varshney

Consultant Practitioner/Head of Service

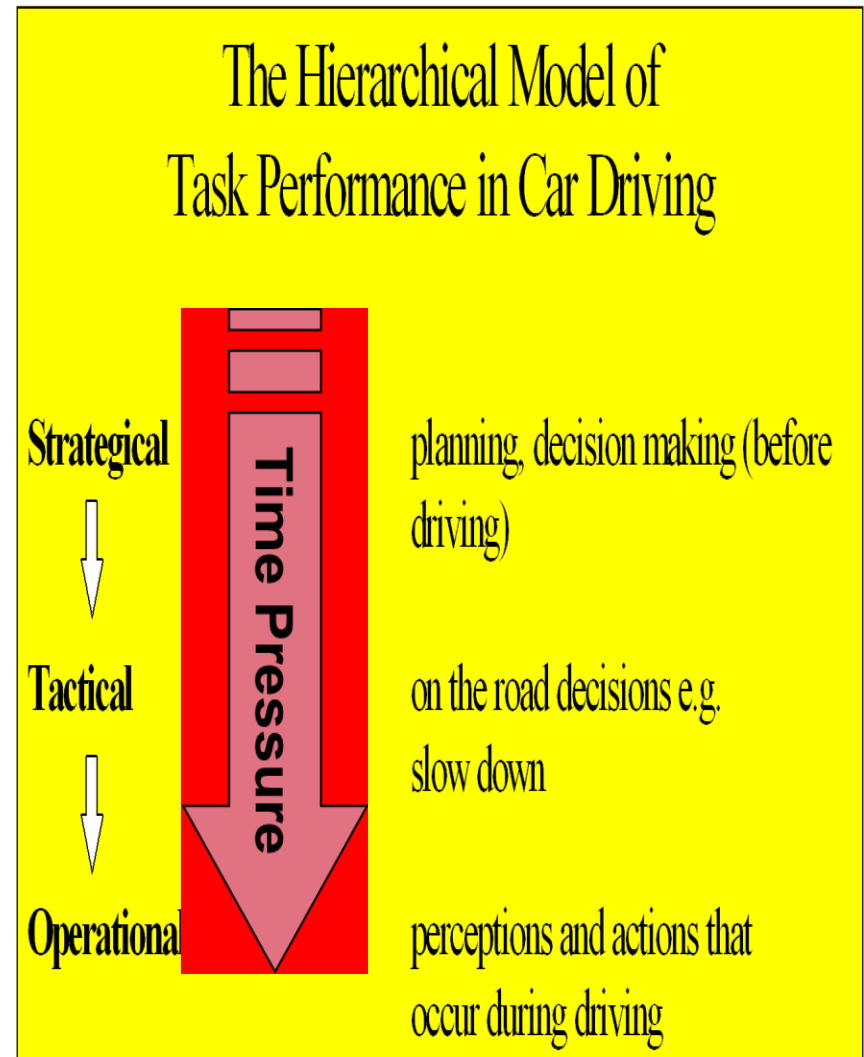
Chairman – Driving Mobility, UK

South East DriveAbility, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Michon's Driving Hierarchy

Adapted from Michon 1979, Wedding 1992

<u>Level</u>	<u>Examples of Actions</u>	<u>Time Pressure</u>	<u>Psychological Abilities Required</u>
<i>Strategic</i>	Deciding whether to drive in bad weather	Low/non-existent	Planning, memory, self-appraisal of abilities
<i>Tactical</i>	Looking ahead in traffic, deciding whether to change lanes	Medium	Planning, anticipation, decision-making
<i>Operational</i>	Second-by-second manoeuvring (eg gear changing, steering, reacting to events)	High	Psychomotor speed, acute perceptual abilities



Driving Licence Regulations

• **DIRECTIVE 2006/126/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 December 2006 on driving licences: 3rd Driving Licence Directive**

- **Article 7 1. ...**
- **(a) who have passed a test of skills and behaviour and a theoretical test and who meet medical standards, in accordance with the provisions of Annexes II and III;**

• **The EU Driving Licence Directive (91/439/EC, 2006/126/EC) :-**

- **“expects a critical evaluation of the functional capacities of applicants in relation to the driving task.”**

Licence Holder's Duty

- Section 94(1) 1988 RTA

“ If at any stage during the period for which his/her licence remains in force, a licence holder becomes aware.. That he has a relevant or perspective disability...the licence holder must notify the secretary of state of the nature & extent of the disability”

Source: DVLA Medical Branch

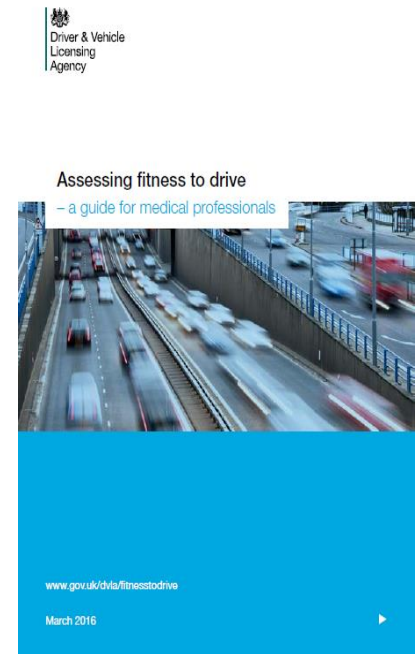


Doctors and other healthcare professionals should (New Guidelines from DVLA)

- Advise the individual on the impact of their medical condition for safe driving ability
- Advise the individual on their legal requirement to notify the DVLA of any relevant condition
- Treat, manage and monitor the individual's condition with on-going consideration of their fitness to drive

Notify the DVLA when fitness to drive requires notification but an individual cannot or will not notify the DVLA themselves.

Of course, this last obligation on professionals may pose a challenge to issues of consent and the relationship between patient and healthcare professional. The GMC and The College of Optometrists offer guidance on this. (Note that the GMC is currently considering updating this guidance.)



Must not drive

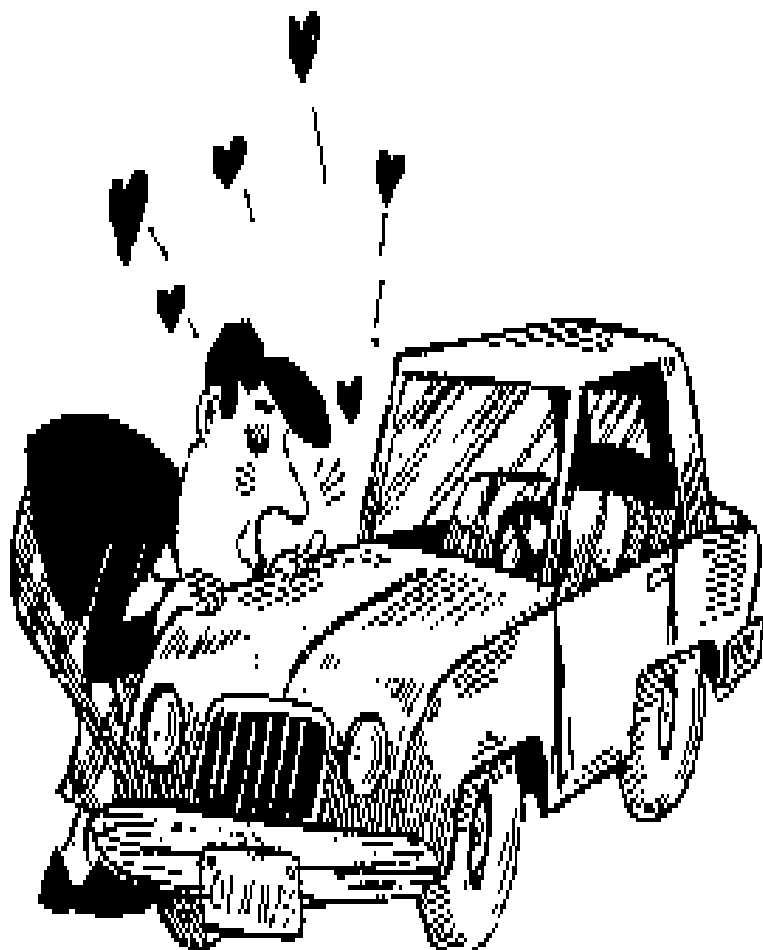


Might be allowed to drive subject to medical advice and/or notifying the DVLA



May drive and need not notify the DVLA

Challenge for us: Giving up Driving



Risk Management

Vs

Independence & Wellbeing



Driving Mobility

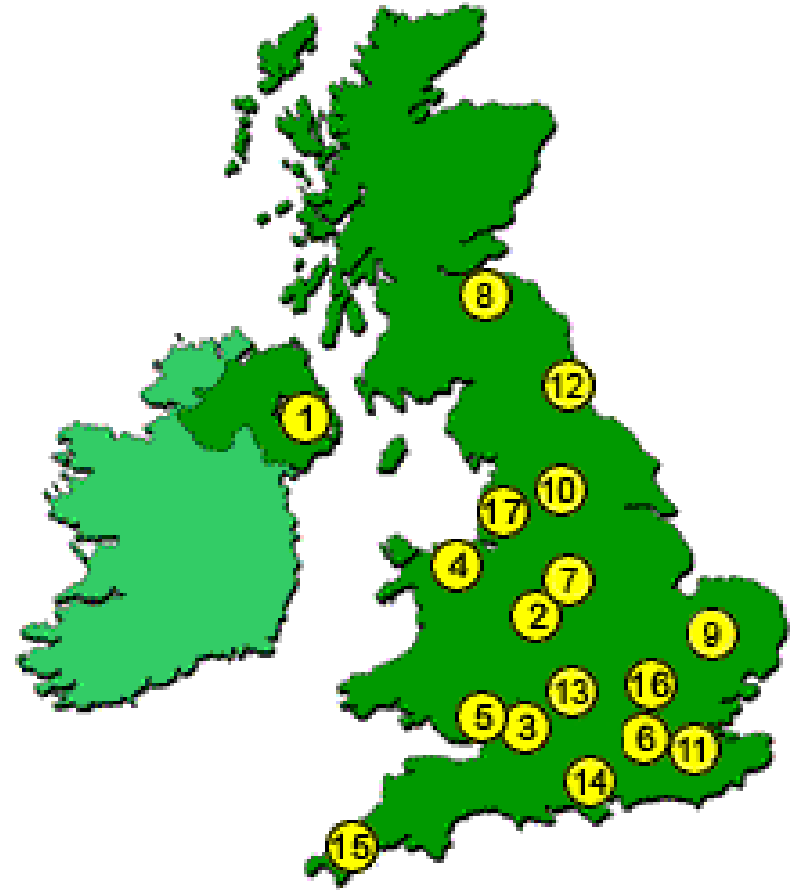
Driving Mobility

Formerly known as the Forum of Mobility Centres



Forum of
Mobility Centres

Driving Mobility is a network of 16 independent organisations covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which offer professional, high quality information, advice and assessment to people who need to gain or retain independence through mobility.



Driving Mobility · Tel: 0800 559 3636 · Email: info@drivingmobility.org.uk

Driving Mobility is the working name of the Forum of Mobility Centres. Registered charity number: 298178. A company limited by guarantee. Registered number: 2192584



Driving Mobility

- Governing Body in UK for all Mobility Centres
- Accreditation
- Standards for our sector
- Collaboration with other organisations/agencies – Older Drivers Forum, Motability
- Research & Development
- International partnership –CIECA
- Innovation – Fitness to drive initiative with Hampshire Constabulary

Who do we offer advice and assessment to?

- People with a medical condition that may impact their ability to make appropriate decisions with regards to safe driving
- People with a disability who think they may need special modifications to a motor vehicle in order to be able to control it safely
- Experienced, older drivers who may have concerns about their standard of driving
- Parents/Carers who need to transport people, including children, with restricted mobility in a motor vehicle
- People considering a wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV)
- People who wish to begin, or return to driving following an illness, injury or accident
- People who are recovering from an accident or injury which may temporarily affect their ability to drive or transfer to a vehicle.

What do we offer?

Assessment and advice:

- on adaptations to overcome physical problems with vehicle control
- with regard to your ability to drive safely
- on wheelchair and scooter loading and transportation
- regarding passenger / driver access to vehicles

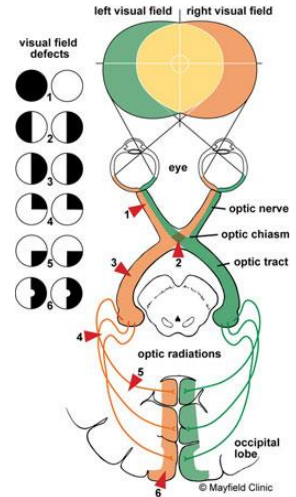
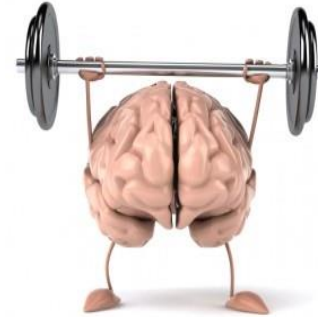
The following assessment and advice are available at some Centres:

- wheelchair/scooter selection
- motorcycles or heavy goods vehicles
- vocational assessments for taxi drivers and PSV licence holders
- postural support seating solutions for air travel
- paediatric assessment including powered wheelchairs and car seats



The Assessment Process

- Vision
- Physical Abilities
- Cognitive Assessment
- Seating and Posture
- Static Testing
- Practical On-Road Drive



BPS (p 21,2001)

“Despite some consistency in findings within specific cognitive domains, the main general conclusion that can be drawn is that the greater the neuropsychological deficit, the more likely it is that the person is unfit to drive”

PRACTICAL DRIVE- on road assessment

- Carried out in a dual-controlled vehicle
- Looking for a safe drive with good observations, the ability to keep up with traffic, due regard for other road users and the ability to forward plan and deal with hazards as they occur
- Carried out on pre-determined routes



Outcome of Assessment

At the end of the assessment, the client will be told the outcome, which will generally be:

- Safe to drive without adaptations
- Safe to drive, with adaptations
- Safe to retrain to drive with adaptations (review required when competent)
- Unsafe to drive

DVLA will make the final decision about Licence

Fitness to Driving Assessment: USP

Knowledge of implications of medical diagnoses on driving (functional impairments)

- Pre- and in car evaluations
- Comprehension of normality and abnormality concerning behaviour in traffic
- Comprehension of + and – of vehicle adaptations, restrictions

pre - car assessment:

- referral information
- medical
- visual
- cognitive function
- physical

In car performance:

- impairments, limitations and compensation
- driving skills
- cognitive function
- physical

“The expert looks beyond the driver’s actions and tries to understand them to establish if they are due to problems of fitness, skill, or behaviour (individually or combined). “ (Handbook of disabled driver assessment, p. 21)

Decision:

•practically fit to drive: within range of normal driving adaptations and/or other changes required (human and/or vehicle)

•practically not fit to drive: impairment related phenomena (limitations) which cannot be remediated by any intervention (at this moment).

Key difference between Fitness to Drive Assessment and Driving Test

Fitness to Drive Assessment

- In medical procedure
- ? No DL required (For clinic based assessment)
- Expert
- Fitness
- Why something happens
- Interpret behaviour
- Evaluation is a starting point
- Evaluation is informed
- If negative – events
- Events are allowed (within safety)
- Not always choice of vehicle
- “Guided Tour”
- Reasonable performance
- Tailored protocol
- Decision in terms of solution

Driving Test /Examination

- In administrative procedure
- Provision DL required
- Final test
- Examiner
- Competence, skill
- That something happens
- Observed behaviour
- Evaluation in end point
- Evaluation is blind
- If negative: mistakes
- Mistakes are not allowed
- Free choice of vehicle
- On your own
- Predetermined criteria
- Standard protocol
- Decision as pass/fail

Driving Licence Code:

Automatic	78	Audible Bleeper Switch	35	Modified Driver's Seat	43
Manufacturers Power Steering	40	Push/Pull Hand Control	30	Push Button Start	35
City Power Steering	40	Push Brake	20	Push Button Gear Selector	10
Lightened Power Steering	40	Steering Ball Left	Not coded	Modified Driver's Seat	43
Integrated Indicator Switch	35	Steering Ball Right	Not coded	Accelerator Under Ring	25
Wireless/Infra Red Device	35	Left Foot Accelerator	25	Accelerator Over Ring	25





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