

How will I travel?

- If the person is above state pension age, they are entitled to a free bus pass in Bath and North East Somerset.
- They can use the NHS patient transport service for free travel to hospital appointments.
- Ask us about low cost community transport options for shopping and social trips, such as Dial-a-Ride or Swan Transport.

Benefits of not driving:

- The person will no longer have to look for parking spaces or pay for parking permits.
- Significant savings can be made, as they will no longer have to buy fuel or expensive car insurance.
- It reduces the stress of driving in busy traffic.



Please note

If the person diagnosed with dementia or severe memory problems does not notify the DVLA about their condition and continues to drive against their doctor's advice, the doctor may have to inform DVLA without the person's consent.

Family members, neighbours or police officers, may also contact the DVLA and ask for a medical assessment if they are concerned about a person's ability to drive.

Useful Contacts

The local Mobility Assessment Centre:

Driving And Mobility Centre (West Of England)
The Vassall Centre
Gill Avenue
Bristol
BS16 2QQ

Tel: 0117 965 9353

DVLA Medical Enquiries:

Drivers Medical Group
DVLA
Swansea
SA99 1TU

Tel: 0300 790 6806 (Mon - Fri, 8:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 2:00pm)

www.gov.uk/dvla-medical-enquiries



The RICE Centre
Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath, BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 476420

Fax: 01225 463403

info@rice.org.uk

rice.org.uk



Advice for Drivers



This leaflet contains general advice about driving for people with memory loss. If you would like further information please contact the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), your insurance company or your doctor.

RICE is a registered charity in England and Wales (no.1042559)



Driving and Dementia

Safe driving is a complex skill which needs a lot of attention, concentration, co-ordination, judgement, good vision and fast reaction speeds.

When a person has memory problems, there may be changes to their driving skills that they might not be aware of themselves, even if they have been driving safely for many years.

The time to stop driving will be different for each person with a memory problem.



Mild Cognitive Impairment

People with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) have subtle problems with memory, planning and attention.

Drivers with MCI do not need to notify the DVLA unless their condition affects their ability to drive. A person's doctor or family members can help judge this and if either are concerned the DVLA should be informed. As with a diagnosis of dementia or a severe memory problem, the DVLA will request a questionnaire to be completed and access to medical reports to assess their ability to drive.

The Law

A dementia diagnosis does not mean a person has to automatically give up driving, but they must comply with UK Law.

If someone with a severe memory problem or diagnosis of dementia wants to continue to drive they need to inform the DVLA of their condition immediately.

Failure to do this could incur a fine of up to £1,000 and prosecution if involved in an accident as a result.

The person's full name, address, date of birth, driver number on their driving licence and details of their diagnosis should be sent to:

Drivers Medical Group
DVLA
Swansea
SA99 1TU

The DVLA will send a questionnaire (CG1) form to the person with dementia or memory problem. This form is also available online at:

www.gov.uk/dementia-and-driving

Insurance

Car insurance providers must also be notified of a dementia diagnosis. If someone with dementia continues to drive without informing their insurance company, their policy may become invalid.

It is illegal to drive without at least third party cover.

What will the DVLA do?

The DVLA questionnaire will seek permission from the person with dementia to contact their doctor for a medical report. Then the DVLA will inform the person in writing of their decision to either:

- A** Allow the person with dementia to continue to drive with a new temporary licence of between 1-3 years. This can be renewed after further reviews of their condition.
- B** Ask the person to stop driving and return their license.
- C** Request the person take a driving assessment before making a decision. The DVLA will refer the driver to a centre near their home and will pay for the assessment.

Can I just stop driving?

Yes. For some people, the easiest thing to do is to stop driving. In this case, their driving license must be returned to the DVLA. A form in order to do this can be found online at:

www.gov.uk/giving-up-your-driving-licence

Giving up driving can be a difficult and frustrating decision. It may result in new problems, such as how to get shopping or visit family. There are support services RICE can put you in touch with to help with essential tasks.

