

AA

Creating confidence for drivers

Saving young lives through
graduated driver licences



Graduated Driver Licence: *a simple, safe solution*

Young, inexperienced drivers and their passengers face a disproportionate risk on our roads. The AA is calling for Graduated Driver Licences (GDL) for new drivers.

By making pragmatic, practical adjustments to the licensing process we can reduce the risk young drivers face when they are at their most inexperienced and vulnerable. A simple, clear system would empower parents, carers and young drivers to make safer decisions, leading to a reduction in casualties and potentially lowering young driver insurance premiums.

Passengers

New drivers under the age of 21 would not be allowed to carry **peer-age passengers**, for 6 months after passing their test, with exemptions for parents/carers.

Logbook

We support the introduction of a mandatory logbook to ensure learners spend enough time gaining a range of driving experiences including on rural roads, at night and in different weather conditions, before they pass their test.

Seatbelts

New drivers should face **six points for not wearing a seatbelt** effectively making new drivers lose their licence for this offence under the New Drivers Act.

'G' plate

To aid police enforcement, new drivers under 21 should **display a 'G' plate** (denoting Graduate driver) for the first six months after passing their test. Failure to do so would be an endorsable offence (3 points).

Overseas evidence

Graduated licences work in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada by making young drivers safer and giving parents extra back-up to enforce passenger rules. Analysis shows 20% to 40% could avoid death or serious injury with graduated licences supporting new drivers. It is time for the UK to act to protect its young drivers.

Sharron Huddleston, who formed the Forget-me-not Families Uniting group from those like herself who have lost loved ones in crashes, said: "Graduated licences are a crucial issue. How many more young people need to die before action is taken?"

"Our message is simple – listen to us, listen to the experts, listen to The AA and learn from other countries, who have seen a huge reduction in young driver and passenger deaths after introducing graduated driving licensing for young novice drivers. My daughter, Caitlin, would be alive today if action had been taken when the concept of graduated licences was floated years ago."

Why we say it



AA members think graduated licences limiting passengers is a good idea*



of those killed or seriously injured in young driver crashes are passengers



of those killed or seriously injured in young driver crashes are under 24



of 17-29-year-olds who die in crashes are not wearing a seatbelt



young drivers crash within a year of taking their test

1,500

young drivers are killed or seriously injured each year

