

Contact us at:

**Promotion & Outreach
Branch**

**Safe & Sustainable Travel
Division**

**Department for
Infrastructure (DfI)**

**Room G-31
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GB**

**Tel: 030 0200 7838 and
ask for 'road safety'**

safeandsustainabletravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

The Highway Code

For over 75 years The Highway Code has been the official guide to using the roads safely and legally. It has contributed enormously to road safety and reliable road transport. The Highway Code isn't just a book of rules and road signs. It could help to save you from death, serious injury or from going to prison. What's more, it's not just for drivers. The Highway Code contains life-saving advice for all road users.

It is as important as ever that all road users, including drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists, horse-riders, passengers and pedestrians, update their knowledge of the Highway Code. Knowing and applying the rules contained in The Highway Code NI could significantly reduce road casualties. Cutting the number of deaths and injuries that occur on our roads every day is a responsibility we all share.

Download your free copy at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/highway-code

ROAD SAFETY

Issue No.6

8th January 2018



Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies

Promotion and Outreach Branch within Safe & Sustainable Travel Division have once again worked in partnership with Translink to highlight the importance of road safety education in schools, with the presentation of the 23rd Ulsterbus Cup.

The joint road safety message was delivered at the 2017 Ulsterbus Cup presentation to Northern Ireland's top performing pupil in the GCSE subject of Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies which is supported by the Department with over 900 students completing the subject this year.

Nial Connell, from St.Colman's College (Newry) took the honours on this occasion – an incredible eighth time the cup has been won by a student from the school across the 23 years the event has been hosted. Also present at the event were management and staff from Translink with invited representatives from the school, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), and the Education Authority (EA).

Lynda Hurley, Head of Department for Infrastructure's Safe and Sustainable Travel Promotion and Outreach team said: "I would like to congratulate Nial on his award and thank St Colman's College, Newry for continuing to offer Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies as a GCSE choice to their students.

Children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable groups using our roads, and in particular young males between the ages 17 to 24 are over represented amongst those killed or seriously injured. The road safety knowledge and skills gained by students when completing the Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies GCSE may one day save a life and for that reason alone it is a vital tool in educating young pre-drivers at a very influential stage in their lives.

I also look forward to continuing our partnership working with CCEA to promote the subject further and I would encourage other schools to consider offering the GCSE as an option to their pupils."

For more information on the subject:

<http://ccea.org.uk/mvrus/>

Consultation on
proposals to implement
**GRADUATED DRIVER
LICENSING (GDL)**
and update the
PRACTICAL DRIVING TEST
Closes on 17 January 2018



View the consultation at
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations

Graduated Driver Licensing

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Department for Infrastructure is in the process of introducing changes known as 'Graduated Driver Licensing' (GDL) that will change how learners learn to drive in Northern Ireland. GDL is a package of measures that aims to reduce the number of new, mainly young drivers, involved in fatal and serious road collisions.

One of the main changes due to be introduced is the requirement for learners to complete a training programme before they sit their practical driving test. This training will need to be recorded in a logbook and signed off by an Approved Driving Instructor or a Supervising Driver such as a parent.

Proposals also include the requirement for all learners to have held their provisional licence for at least 6 months before they can sit their driving test. Learners will also be allowed to drive over the current 45mph limit whilst learning and after passing their driving test.

GDL will also introduce passenger carrying restrictions that will place restrictions on the number of passengers someone under the age of 24 can carry within the first six months of passing their test. New 'R' plates will also be introduced to reflect these changes and will need

to be displayed for two years after a driver has passed their test.

Some changes to the practical driving test are also being considered, for example, learners may be asked to follow instructions from a sat nav during their driving test to demonstrate their ability to drive independently.

Some of these changes still require new legislation to be put in place before they can be introduced and the Department for Infrastructure is asking for your opinion on the changes before the legislation is finalised.

You can provide your say by contributing to the GDL Consultation exercise before it closes on 17th January 2018:

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-graduated-driver-licencing-and-changes-practical-driving-test

Did You Know?

Glider is the brand name under which Translink will operate the Department's new Belfast Rapid Transit system to commence Sept 2018:

<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/nics/news/message-dfi-belfast-rapid-transit-team>

Annual Report

The Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2020 - Annual Statistical Report 2017 has been published.

It provides statistical data which tracks the 2016 position against the four main targets and various key performance indicators. Alongside the publication, an Excel based version of the report, as well as data in open format (ODS) and machine readable format (CSV), has been published which provides access to the raw data and enables users to perform secondary analysis.

This publication can be accessed on the DfI website at the following link:

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-road-safety-strategy-2020-annual-statistical-report-2017

Fatalities by gender, 2016



Four-fifths of fatalities were male