

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S HONORARY
MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

HELD ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2017

Present

Professor D Cunningham Owens Chair
Professor Suba Banerjee
Dr P J Connolly

Lay Members

Dr T Beanland
Mr B Alexander

Ex-officio

Miss N Davies	Head of Drivers Medical, DVLA
Dr W Parry	Senior Medical Adviser, DVLA
Dr A White	Medical Adviser and Panel Secretary, DVLA
Dr P Rizzi	Medical Adviser DVLA
Dr C McGinnis	Medical Adviser DVLA
Dr J Lynch	Medical Adviser DVLA
Mrs S Charles-Phillips	Business Change and Support, DVLA
Mrs R Toft	Medical Licensing Policy, DVLA
Mrs A Rook	Fitness to Drive, DVLA
Ms J Grant	Continuous Improvement, DVLA
Mrs K Bevan	PA to Head of Drivers Medical, DVLA

Important: These advisory notes represent the balanced judgement of the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panel as a whole. If they are quoted, they should be reproduced as such and not as the views of individual Panel members.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr P Fearon, Dr S Bell, Dr T Jagathesan, Dr C Graham, Mr J Donovan.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held 10 October 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 10 October 2016

Matters arising were dealt with under the headings below.

4. Recruitment Update

The Panel was provided with an update on recruitment by DVLA. There was a discussion about the issue of recruitment to the Psychiatry Panel in particular. It was noted that pressure to recruit was growing because the current members of the Panel were approaching their renewal dates.

5. Future Direction of Panel

The Panel discussed the future direction of the Psychiatry Panel, and particularly whether to subsume the role of the Panel into other Panels (general psychiatry to Drug and Alcohol and dementia and cognitive impairment to Neurology) and dissolve the Psychiatry Panel.

A primary discussion point was that mental health problems are a significant proportion of ill health within society and it would not be the desire of the Panel to see this group of drivers potentially disadvantaged by being perceived as less important.

Additionally the point was raised around the potential workload implications for the other Panels, Although relatively quiescent at the present time the future psychiatry workload cannot be predicted and may potentially rise, this was felt to be especially pertinent particularly in relation to the increasing numbers of drivers with dementia or cognitive impairment and the impact on workload for a Panel in absorbing this.

No decision was made about the future of the Panel and the status quo will continue. DVLA will seek further opinions and information around the future of the Panel including those of the Panel members and Medical Advisers.

6. Medical Standards Review

The Panel discussed the current standards, no changes were advised

7. Update on Dementia Guidelines

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A brief update on the progress of the Newcastle Group was presented to the Panel. This is still undergoing evaluation.

8. Case Discussion - Personality Disorder

A case was discussed where the underlying diagnosis was that of Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder (EUPD)– focused on the importance of taking a holistic view of the driver’s functional ability and symptomatic state. In particular it was emphasised that in processing such cases we should focus on the current levels of engagement, relative stability and functional ability.

Further clarification had been obtained from the driver’s consultant confirming levels of engagement and functioning; it was therefore decided that a licence should be issued, initially on a review basis.

9. Update on previous case discussion

A case was reviewed of an applicant with a substantial forensic history for a provisional car licence where there had been a revision of the underlying diagnosis from a schizophreniform illness to that of personality disorder.

As in the previous case, the issue of the maintenance of engagement with treatment was emphasised.

The recommendation at the previous Panel was that an up to date report be obtained from the responsible consultant and that this be reviewed by one of the Panel members. Unfortunately, this information had not been provided by the third party medical professional by the time of this Panel meeting

10. Adult ADHD

The Panel had received communication from an Occupational Health and Mental Health Specialist seeking clarification around the status of students newly acquiring a diagnosis of ADHD whilst a student. This resulted in the prescription of stimulant medications and various concessions around course work and examinations. A noticeable increase in prevalence had been noted

Panel felt this to be a different population to the usual ADHD driver/student, where the vast majority of such applicants have a long established diagnosis and stability on treatment prior to application.

Panel’s view was that with a new diagnosis of ADHD acquired later in life, possibly after acquiring a driving licence, then the driver should notify DVLA so that enquiries could be made. This is in line with the current advice on the GOV website. Panel also advised that the insurance company were likely to require notification as well.

Panel also received a paper by Dr Simon Taylor, Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry; “A man drives as he lives” – An examination of driving and motor sport risk in ADHD drivers. This provided a valuable summary of the risks associated with driving and ADHD and was commended by the Panel.

11. Research Update

There was no research update.

12. Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

13. Date and time of next meeting

9th October 2017

Draft Minutes prepared by: **Dr A M White MB BCh**
Panel Secretary

29th March 2017

Final Minutes signed off by: **Dr Wyn Parry**
Senior Medical Advisor

5th September 2017

Mr Jason Donovan
Medical Licensing Policy

5th September 2017

Professor D Cunningham Owens
Chairman

12th September March