

# Borderwise:

## Motoring

This information sheet aims to provide a general description of the rules about driving in Northern Ireland.

### Driving in the North

The rules about driving in Northern Ireland (NI) are similar to those in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). All drivers must comply with British minimum age requirements. Generally, these are 17 years for cars and motorcycles, 18 years for medium sized vehicles and 21 years for large lorries and buses. The road signs and speed limit signs are in miles, not kilometres.



### What type of licence do you need to drive in the north?

You must have a valid driving licence for the type of vehicle you are driving. You can use any EU or EEA licence in the UK until your licence expires, until you reach the age of 70, or until you have been resident in the UK for three years – whichever of these events happens latest. After that period you must apply for a Northern Ireland licence. If you are a frontier worker who continues to live in ROI you do not need to change your licence. For further information and advice you should telephone the driver and vehicle testing agency on 0845 492 4000.



### Vehicle Tests

All cars over four years old must have an annual test called the MOT. Light Goods Vehicles must have an annual MOT from the time they are three years old. An MOT Vehicle Test Certificate is issued to those vehicles which meet the requirements.

### Driving Tests

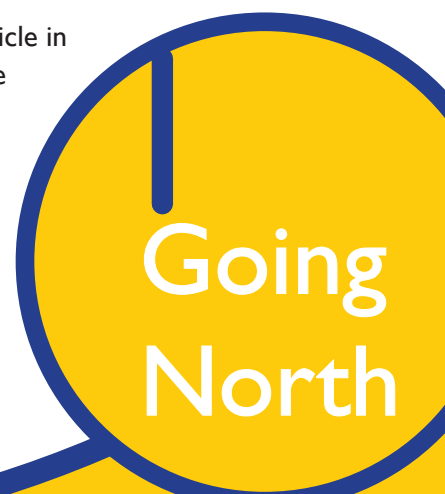
If you do not have a driving licence from the UK, ROI or EU you will need to apply to take a NI driving test. You must be normally resident in Northern Ireland. However, if you have moved to NI having recently been permanently resident in another state of the EC/EEA, you must have been normally resident in Northern Ireland or GB for 185 days in the 12 months prior to your application for a driving test and a full licence. For further information contact [www.dvni.gov.uk](http://www.dvni.gov.uk)

### Registering a vehicle

If you work in NI but continue to live in ROI you do not need to register your vehicle in NI unless you take up residency there. However if you are moving to NI to live the vehicle must be registered at a DVLNI office

### Vehicle Tax and Insurance

A vehicle licence or road tax can be obtained from local driver and vehicle licensing (DVLNI) offices and some post offices. A frontier worker who continues to live in ROI is not required to pay vehicle tax in NI. Insurance is a legal requirement in the UK and each driver, not the vehicle, must be insured separately for a named car.



## Concessions

If you take up residency in NI a variety of schemes are intended to facilitate you if you are a driver with a disability.

### The blue badge scheme

The blue badge scheme gives concessionary parking in certain circumstances to people with disabilities. It is administered through the Department for Regional Development, Roads Service, in N. Ireland. For further information contact: The Disabled Person's Blue Badge Scheme Tel: 028 6634 3700

### Exemption from road tax

A client who has a disability may be exempt from road tax. The exemption will only apply if the vehicle is solely used by the client and/or is being used solely to carry out, for example, her/his errands. For further information on concessions you may be entitled to you should telephone the driver and vehicle licensing agency on 0845 492 4000.

## Driving Offences

### On the spot fines and Penalty Points

You may get an on the spot fine for a range of motoring offences or you may be prosecuted through the courts for such offences. You may also get penalty points for a range of driving offences including breaking a speed limit, insurance offences and failure to wear seat belts.

### Disqualification

If a driver collects 12 or more penalty points on her/his licence within 3 years then s/he will be liable to be disqualified from driving for a fixed period of time depending on the individual case. .

## Speed Cameras

Information on speed cameras is available at: [www.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

Normal speed limits are:

In a built-up area - 30mph (48km/h)

On the outskirts of a built-up area - 40mph (64km/h)

On a main road - 60mph (96km/h)

On a motorway - 70 mph (112km/h)

## Further Information may be obtained from;

Driving and Vehicle Agency Northern Ireland

Tel: (0845) 4024000 or by visiting the website: [www.dvani.gov.uk](http://www.dvani.gov.uk)

## Contact Details

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