



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel +442072192056
manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: MP02226

18 June 2025

Re: Feasibility of Introducing Graduated Driving Licences

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to ask that your department looks at the case for introducing a graduated licensing scheme for young and newly qualified drivers in England.

Every year, far too many young people are seriously injured or killed on our roads. Government figures from 2023 show that a quarter of all fatalities from car collisions involved at least one young driver. In that year alone, 1,417 young drivers in the UK suffered serious or fatal injuries. In total, 4,959 people were killed or seriously injured in crashes involving young drivers.

I have met with families, both in my constituency and in Parliament, whose lives have been devastated by road traffic accidents, and who are now turning to their elected representatives in the hope of meaningful action to improve road safety.

We know that other countries, including Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and every state in the US, already use some form of graduated licensing to reduce the risks faced by new drivers. These schemes vary, but often include sensible, evidence-based steps such as limits on night-time driving or carrying passengers, and probationary periods marked by visual 'N' plates.

In the past, the Government has considered similar policies. Back in 2018, Theresa May asked the Department for Transport to explore the feasibility of such a scheme, and in 2020 the Department stated that the idea was being dropped. However, in light of the latest figures and renewed campaigning from road safety charities and motoring organisations, including the RAC Foundation, there is growing public support for revisiting the issue.

I also believe that it is important that any future scheme is designed to take account of the needs of newly qualified drivers who are parents or carers and may need to transport children or dependants. With appropriate exemptions, a scheme could save lives without unfairly penalising those with caring responsibilities.

I would be grateful if you could set out whether the Government intends to include graduated driving licensing in its upcoming Road Safety Strategy, and what consideration has been given to the potential public health and safety benefits of introducing such a scheme.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,
Manuela

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Manuela Perteghella". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Manuela Perteghella MP
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