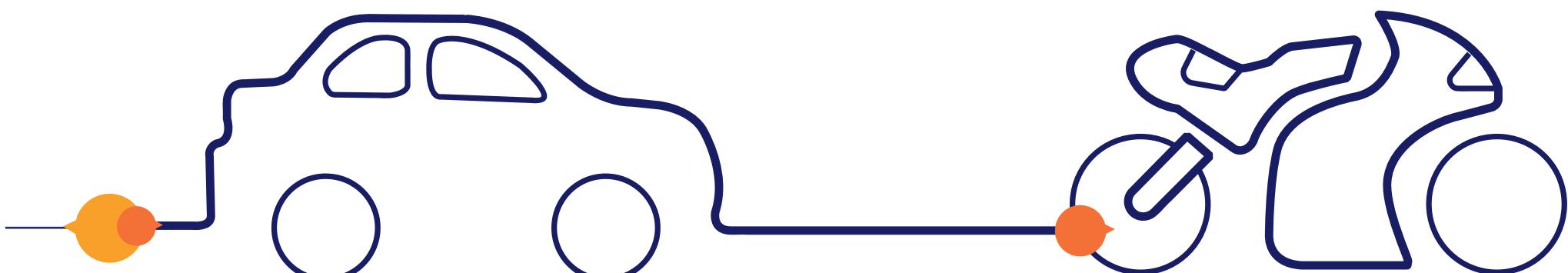


Regional Coordinator Newsletter August 2025



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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my August 2025 newsletter. The following statement was sent to all RoSPA members on the 30th of July 2025 regarding the future of the Level 3 Award in RoADAR Advanced (rider/driver) coaching courses.

"Following a review of course uptake and feedback from our members, it has become clear that the current qualification does not fully meet the standards we strive to maintain. As such, we have made the decision to retire this version of the course."

I am disappointed that the courses have had to be retired. Having previously actively promoted these courses, which I felt provided a valuable option to train Advanced Tutors in groups which currently did not have Advanced Tutors and also to areas of the country where there were no RoADAR groups by allowing RoSPA members to start new groups with Advanced Tutors in place. Previous courses (eg the RoSPA Diploma) were very expensive requiring candidates to travel and stay in Birmingham for up to 5 days. However, having been involved this year with a number of Scottish RoADAR members partaking in the course, there were quality issues with stability of the online platform and some questionable loss of learning potential within some parts of the course content. The message goes on to say.

"In its place, we are developing a new and improved training programme, which will be piloted this November, with a full launch planned for the New Year. We are also exploring delivery formats to ensure the course is accessible to members across the country."

It is my hope that current RoADAR Advanced Tutors are to be involved in assuring the improvements and also RoADAR members (perhaps recruited from those involved in the initial programme) are involved in the piloting of the improved training programme.

This month's discussion Topic.

Mandatory eyesight checks for older drivers and riders

Whilst compiling my newsletter last month, I noted that there are estimated to be around 1 million full licence holders over the age of 60 in Scotland. According to the Irish bulletin of vehicle and driver statistics in 2023 there were 3 million full licence holders which, if we assume the demographics are similar, means there are also around 1 million drivers over the age of 60 in the ROI. Recent figures in Scotland show that 29% of drivers that are killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions were 60 and over.

In the news this week, there are proposals expected to come into law later this year, to introduce mandatory eye checks for riders/drivers over 70 when renewing the driving licence in England and Wales. Given that the Scottish Government launched a 'fitness to drive' campaign at the start of 2025 which emphasised the importance of regular eye examinations for older drivers, I would expect Scotland to follow suit. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a6OG8frFLs>)

In the ROI, confirming your eyesight meets the standard required to drive is slightly but importantly, more formal than in the UK. All new riders/drivers must sign a NDLS Eyesight Report Form in front of an authorised Optometrist or Medical Practitioner when applying for a Learner Permit and again when they are 75 to renew their licence.

According to some 2015 analysis the College of Optometrists, stated that 1 in 5 UK drivers admitted to driving knowing their vision was poor. As we are all getting older, maybe this could



be a timely topic to invite a local Optometrist along to discuss at one of your coming group meetings to remind everyone how important regular eyesight checks are?

Additional RoADAR topics



Roadarbenefits.co.uk

Make use of your RoADAR member rewards

Visit [RoADAR Benefits](#) today to see what offers are currently available to you.

- RoSPA Testing: Thirteen RoSPA tests were taken during July in Scotland. There were four tests taken during July in the Republic of Ireland. While there were two tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland, there were no Rospa tests taken in Northern Ireland in July.
- Ayrshire Road Alliance is in the process of arranging a safe driver's event in Brodick, Arran in September and is also repeating the iDrive event in Kilmarnock on the 15th of November.
- ScORSA –The calendar for the rest of 2025 has been published on the website. On the 30th of September at 11am, ‘The Road Safety Hour’ topic is Driver Fatigue. All previous webinars so far this year are available on their website.
- I would like to ask all motorcycle members to remember if you have recently purchased new PPE, please consider donating your unused but useable PPE to a young rider who may not have the finances to purchase proper PPE.

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