

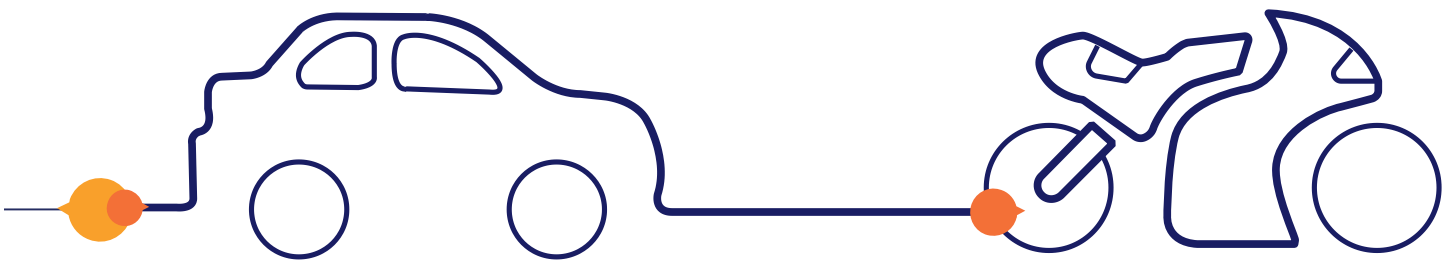


Regional Coordinator Newsletter April 2026



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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my April 2026 newsletter. I recently received a request from a RoSPA member for clarification on a RoSPA Test item. I thought it might be beneficial to highlight it in my newsletter in the off-chance you are asked to comment.




The item for clarification was on road positioning into and through bends. You may also have heard it said that Examiners are expecting drivers to take a central position for bends during the RoSPA Car Test. This central position in fact relates to advice within Police Scotland car driver training due to higher training speeds. This is not the recommended position in Roadcraft or indeed RoSPA Award test policy which remains –

"For RH bends, the nearside gives a better view into the bend" Roadcraft 2025 p209 and "For LH bends, a position towards the centre of the road gives an earlier view" (Roadcraft 2025 p210). However, "Always be prepared to sacrifice your road position for safety" (Roadcraft 2025 p208)

This month's discussion Topic.

Graduated Driver Licensing is being introduced in Northern Ireland from October 2026.

Why? According to the NI Department of Infrastructure: In 2024, there were 164 casualties (killed or seriously injured) from collisions where a car driver aged 17-23 was responsible. This age group of drivers accounts for 24% of fatal or serious collisions despite holding just 8% of licences. Also in 2024, there were 12 casualties (killed or seriously injured) from collisions where a motor cyclist aged 17-23 was responsible. Key measures include:

-  A mandatory minimum learner period before testing. Learner drivers cannot sit their practical test until they have held provisional car entitlement as part of their provisional driving licence for at least six months (this will not apply to motorcyclists).
-  A Programme of Training that details the learning required to become a safe driver. This must be completed and recorded in a Logbook before a learner driver can undertake their practical driving test. The Programme of Training and completion of the Logbook is being developed as a mobile GDL App and will also be available as a web browser option.
-  Post-test protections such as:
 - Longer protection period increased from 12 months to 24 months. The current 12-month protection period, where a new driver must display R plates, will be extended to a 24 month 'new driver' period. This will require new drivers to display a distinguishing mark (R plate) on the vehicle for two years after receiving a full licence.
 - Night-time passenger restrictions for new drivers under 24, for the first six-months after passing their test (drivers only): no more than one passenger aged between 14-20 years between 23:00 and 06:00 (exemptions apply for immediate family members).

For more information on this visit <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/graduated-driver-licensing-faqs#toc-2>



Additional RoADAR topics



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- 🗨️ **RoSPA Testing:** Five RoSPA tests were taken in March in Scotland. There were four tests taken during March in the Republic of Ireland. There were no tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland during March, and there were also no tests taken in Northern Ireland.
- 🗨️ **Regional Coordinator:** As your Regional Coordinator I am happy to support both RoADAR group members and RoSPA members with membership advice and advanced training advice. I am available at the contact methods below.
- 🗨️ **ScORSA –** All previous webinars are now available online. The next Road Safety Hour is scheduled for Tuesday the 21st of April 2026. All these webinars are free to join and as excessive speed remains a leading cause of crashes involving work-related driving this webinar is entitled 'Speed'. You can register online.
- 🗨️ **Ayrshire Road Alliance** are in the process of organising an 'iDRIVE event' for International Day of Older People on Thursday 1st October in Ayr Town Hall. While North Ayrshire Council are planning an event for Motorcyclists in August. More details when available.
- 🗨️ 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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