

Regional Coordinator Newsletter December 2025

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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my December 2025 newsletter. As 2025 is drawing to an end, I have looked at how the year's overall RoSPA Advanced tests compared to the previous twelve months. (Please remember some tests listed may have been RoSPA Driving Reviews rather than Advanced Tests). However, recently Driver Reviews have generally been few or non-existent.

Congratulations to all those who passed in 2025. Hopefully, you will maintain your skills and decide to retest in 2028.

In Scotland there was a slight reduction over the period from 111(2024) tests against 93(2025).

Elsewhere, the story is of RoSPA Test number improvements. In the Republic of Ireland, there was an increase from 36(2024) to 53(2025).

Not surprisingly, due to there being no active RoADAR group for a couple of years, in Northern Ireland, there too, has seen an increase from 0(2024) to 9(2025).

The results from SW Scotland and N Cumbria are potentially inaccurate as I need to discern Post Code and Examiner to estimate the numbers. (I apologise if I got it wrong) There is also an increase from 13(2024) to 18(2025).

I would also like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to all the Group Tutors for their time given and selfless efforts to improve driving and riding in your area. I would also like to thank all the RoSPA Examiners involved.

This month's discussion Topic.

Supporting young people learning to drive?

You may be aware that currently, for many, the delay from booking to taking a UK driving test is an average 22 weeks and can easily be six months. (I understand in the Republic of Ireland the average is around half that time.) This situation in the UK, is unlikely to improve over the next two years. Driving as we know, is a skill which *'If you don't use it, you lose it'*.

As a result of the (considerable) additional financial burden of interim lessons on household budgets, for many young people who have already gained their skills, private practice with family or friends is becoming an essential method of maintaining their driving skills while waiting for a test. Especially where the additional Authorised Driving Instructor (ADI) lessons are hard to get.

If you have no previous experience supervising a learner driver it can be very daunting if you are asked to help. It is certainly something you should not partake lightly. I was, before retiring, an ADI and often found myself advising parents on this subject. My first advice was always to consider sitting-in (if mutually acceptable to the ADI and the learner) on a lesson or two. Also, make sure you are legally able to supervise and the vehicle insurance fully covers learner driving. If insurance is a problem, consider hiring a 'learner driver' vehicle.

RoSPA produced a Factsheet 'Helping young people to drive safely' in 2017. This provides good advice for anyone considering helping but probably needs to be updated. (EG. Only ADI's



can legally take learner drivers onto motorways) There are some excellent up-to-date advice in <https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/blog/cars/how-to-practise-driving-with-your-parents/> and also in the DVLA information found at <https://www.gov.uk/driving-lessons-learning-to-drive/practising-with-family-or-friends>.

Often and short is an ideal way of maintaining new learned driving skills. (EG. Return journey to the supermarket). This will provide practice of planning, driving and slow manoeuvring. Remember: **You're not a passenger, you're a supervisor**. Keep alert and monitor what the learner does. You really need to look well ahead and be aware of what's going on to keep safe. You are responsible and liable for driving offences whilst supervising (as you would be behind the wheel). Keep calm – provide positive and constructive feedback. Also, be aware that some of your learned Advanced Driving skills would not be viewed as safe in the driving test.

Additional RoADAR topics



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- 🗨️ RoSPA Testing: Five RoSPA tests were taken In November in Scotland. There were six tests taken during November in the Republic of Ireland. While there were no tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland and, one taken in Northern Ireland.
- 🗨️ ScORSA –There are no Webinars planned for December. All previous webinars are now available online. The next Road Safety Hour is scheduled for Tuesday the 24th of February 2026 and is entitled 'The Gig Economy'.
- 🗨️ 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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