# STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

# 1973 No. 1229 (N.I. 17)

# NORTHERN IRELAND

# The Road Traffic (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1973

Laid before Parliament in draft

Made

Article

16th July 1973

Coming into operation on days to be appointed under Article 1

# ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

- 1. Title and commencement.
- 2. Interpretation and temporary provision.
- 3. Physical fitness of applicants for licences.
- 4. Motor vehicle testing.
- 5. Drivers' hours of duty.
- 6. Employment of traffic wardens.
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- 9. Power of police to stop vehicles.
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- 11. Punishment without prosecution of certain offences.
- 12. Weighing of motor vehicles.
- 13. Invalid carriages.
- 14. Prosecution and punishment of offences.
- 15. Transfer to Ministry of Home Affairs of functions relating to licensing of drivers.
- 16. Financial provision.
- 17. Amendments and repeals.

# **SCHEDULES**

- SCHEDULE 1—Amendments of Schedule 3 to the principal Act as to punishments for offences.
- SCHEDULE 2—Amendments of the principal Act consequential upon the transfer of functions to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- SCHEDULE 3-Consequential or minor amendments of the principal Act.
- SCHEDULE 4-Bnactments repealed.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 16th day of July 1973

# Present.

# The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Whereas a draft of this Order has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1 (3) of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972(a), and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:---

#### Title and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Road Traffic (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 and shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister of Home Affairs may by order appoint.

# Interpretation and temporary provision

2.--(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(b) shall apply to Article 1 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

(2) In this Order "the principal Act" means the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(c) and this Order shall be construed as one with that Act.

(3) So long as section 1 of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972 has effect-

- (a) subsection (1) (a) of that section applies to all functions which are conferred by this Order on the Minister of Home Affairs;
- (b) paragraph 4 (5) of the Schedule to that Act applies to any order which under this Order is subject to affirmative resolution.

# Physical fitness of applicants for licences

3. For section 4 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following section :----

"Physical 4.—(1) On an application for a driving licence or a provisional fitness of licence the applicant shall make a declaration in such form as the applicants Ministry may require stating whether or not he is suffering, or has licences. at any time (or, if a period is prescribed for the purposes of this subsection, has during that period) suffered, from any prescribed disease or physical disability, or from any other disease or physical disability which would be likely to cause the driving by him of a motor vehicle, being a vehicle of such a class or description as he would be authorised by the licence to drive, to be a source of danger to the public.

> (2) If it appears from the declaration, or if on enquiry the Ministry is satisfied from other information, that the applicant is

22.	<b>(b)</b>	1954 c.	<b>3</b> 3	(N.I.).	

(a) 1972 c. 2

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suffering from a relevant disease or physical disability the Ministry shall refuse to grant the licence, so, however, that—

- (a) a licence limited to driving an invalid carriage may be granted to the applicant if the Ministry is satisfied that he is fit to drive such a carriage;
- (b) except in the case of such diseases and physical disabilities as may be prescribed, the applicant may, on payment of the prescribed fee, claim to be subjected to the test, and if he passes the test and is not otherwise disqualified the licence shall not be refused by reason only of the provisions of this subsection but if the test proves his fitness to drive vehicles of a particular construction or design only, the licence shall be limited to the driving of such vehicles;
- (c) if on the application for a driving licence the applicant makes a declaration that on the occasion of a previous application by him a driving licence was granted to him after passing the test a further test shall not be required, unless from the declaration as to physical fitness made by him for the purposes of his application, or from information received by the Ministry, it appears that the disease or physical disability from which the applicant is suffering has become more acute, or that the applicant is suffering from some disease or physical disability which was not disclosed on the previous occasion or which was contracted since that occasion;
- (d) a licence shall not be refused on account of a relevant disease or physical disability which is prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph, if the applicant satisfies such conditions as may be prescribed with a view to authorising the grant of a licence to a person in whose case the disease or physical disability is appropriately controlled.

(3) In this section "relevant disease or physical disability" means such a disease or physical disability as is mentioned in subsection (1).".

# Motor vehicle testing

4. For section 29 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following sections:---

"Testing condition of used vehicles at sale rooms, etc. 29.—(1) An authorised officer may at any reasonable hour enter premises where used motor vehicles or trailers are sold, supplied, or offered or kept for sale or supply, in the course of a business, and examine any used motor vehicle or trailer found thereon for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is in any such condition as is mentioned in section 28 (1), and for the purpose of examining a motor vehicle and any trailer drawn by it may drive it and for the purpose of examining a trailer may draw it with a motor vehicle.

(2) Any person who obstructs an authorised officer acting under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(3) In this section "authorised officer" means a constable, or an officer of the Ministry, who is authorised by the Chief Constable or the Ministry respectively for the purposes of this section; and any such person shall, if so required, produce his authority to act for the purposes of this section.

(4) A motor vehicle or trailer shall be treated as used for the purposes of this section if, but only if, it has previously been sold or supplied by retail.

Motor vehicle testing. 29A.—(1) The provisions of this section and section 29B shall have effect in relation to motor vehicles other than goods vehicles, public service vehicles and large private passenger vehicles which are required to be certified under sections 46, 54 and 62 respectively and for the purpose of ascertaining whether the statutory requirements relating to the construction and condition of motor vehicles, their accessories and equipment are complied with.

(2) The Ministry may by regulations make provision for the testing of vehicles submitted for a test under this section, for payment in respect of that test of such fees as may, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, be prescribed and for the issue, where it is found on such a test that the requirements mentioned in subsection (1) are complied with, of a certificate (in this Act referred to as a "vehicle test certificate") that at the date of the test the requirements were complied with in relation to the vehicle.

(3) Tests for the purposes of this section shall be carried out by inspectors appointed by the Ministry.

(4) Where a vehicle test certificate is refused, the inspector shall issue a notification of the refusal stating the grounds thereof, and a person aggrieved by the refusal or the grounds thereof may appeal to the Ministry; and on any such appeal the Ministry shall cause a further test to be made and either issue or refuse to issue a vehicle test certificate.

(5) The Ministry may make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this section and in particular as to—

- (a) the manner in which applications may be made for the testing of vehicles under this section, the manner in which and time within which appeals may be brought under subsection (4), the information to be supplied and documents to be produced on such an application, test or appeal, the payment, in respect of such an appeal, of such fees as may, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, be prescribed and the repayment of the whole or a part of the fee paid on such an appeal where it appears to the Ministry that there were substantial grounds for contesting the whole or part of the decision appealed against;
- (b) the form of, and particulars to be contained in, vehicle test certificates and notifications of the refusal thereof;
- (c) the issue of duplicates of vehicle test certificates lost or defaced and the fee to be paid for the issue thereof;
- (d) the issue of vehicle test certificates and the payment for the issue thereof of such fees as may, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, be prescribed.

Obligatory vehicle test certificates. 29B.—(1) A person who at any time uses on a road or other public place, or causes or permits to be so used, a motor vehicle to which this section applies, and in respect of which no vehicle test certificate has been issued within the appropriate period before the said time, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(2) Subject to section 29A (1) and to subsection (5), the motor vehicles to which this section applies at any time are—

- (a) those first registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(a), the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(b), or the Roads Act 1920(c), not less than ten years before that time; and
- (b) those which, having a date of manufacture not less than ten years before that time, have been used on roads (whether in Northern Ireland or elsewhere) before being registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 or the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) (b) there shall be disregarded the use of a vehicle—

- (a) before it is sold or supplied by retail; or
- (b) before it is registered by the Ministry under section 19 (1) (b) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (registration when Ministry receives from a motor dealer particulars of a vehicle to which the dealer has assigned a mark under section 20 of that Act) and after a mark is so assigned to it.

(4) The Ministry may by order made subject to affirmative resolution direct that subsections (2) and (6) (c) shall have effect with the substitution, for ten years, of such shorter period as may be specified in the order.

(5) The Ministry may by regulations exempt from subsection (1)—

- (a) vehicles of such classes or descriptions as may be specified in the regulations;
- (b) vehicles used only for such purposes as may be so specified;
- (c) vehicles used only in such areas as may be so specified.

(6) The Ministry may by regulations provide that where application is made for a licence under the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 for a motor vehicle to which this section applies or where, in the case of an application relating to a motor vehicle to which this section applies by virtue of subsection (2) (b), it appears from the application that the vehicle has been used on roads (whether in Northern Ireland or elsewhere) before the date of the application, the licence shall not be granted unless—

- (a) there is produced such evidence as may be prescribed of the granting of an effective vehicle test certificate; or
- (b) there is made such a declaration as may be prescribed that the vehicle is not intended to be used during the period for which the licence is to be in force except for a purpose or in an area prescribed under subsection (5); or

(a) 1972 c, 10 (N.I.). (b) 195	c. 17 (N.I.).	(c) 1920 c. 72.
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(c) in the case of an application relating to a vehicle to which this section applies by virtue of subsection (2) (b), the owner of the vehicle declares in writing the year in which the vehicle was manufactured, and ten years have not elapsed from the date of manufacture.

(7) Where within the appropriate period after a vehicle test certificate is issued or treated for the purposes of this section as issued, but not earlier than one month before the end of that period, a further vehicle test certificate is issued as respects the same vehicle, the further certificate shall be treated for the purposes of this section as if issued at the end of the said appropriate period.

(8) Without prejudice to section 17 (5) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954, for the purpose of spreading the work of issuing vehicle test certificates in contemplation of the coming into operation of this section or of a change in the length of the appropriate period—

- (a) the order appointing a day for the coming into operation of this section may appoint different days as respects vehicles registered as mentioned in subsection (2) at different times;
- (b) the regulations changing the length of the appropriate period may be made so as to come into operation on different days as respects vehicles first registered under any of the enactments mentioned in subsection (2) at different times.

(9) For the purposes of this section the date of manufacture of a vehicle shall be taken to be the last day of the year during which its final assembly is completed, except where after that day modifications are made to the vehicle before it is sold or supplied by retail, and in the said excepted case shall be taken to be the last day of the year during which the modifications are completed.

(10) In this section—

- (a) "appropriate period" means a period of twelve months or such shorter period as the Ministry may by regulations prescribe; and
- (b) "effective vehicle test certificate" means, in relation to an application for a licence for a motor vehicle, a vehicle test certificate relating to the vehicle and issued within the appropriate period before the date from which the licence is to be in force;
- (c) "sold or supplied by retail" means sold or supplied otherwise than to a person acquiring solely for the purpose of resale or of re-supply for a valuable consideration.

Roadside examinations and remedying of discovered defects.

29C.—(1) An authorised officer may, subject to the provisions of this section, examine a motor vehicle on a road or other public place for the purpose of ascertaining whether the statutory requirements relating to the use, construction and condition of motor vehicles are complied with as respects the vehicle, and in particular any such authorised officer shall be entitled as part of the examination to do all or any of the following things, that is to say—

- (a) to drive the vehicle for a distance not exceeding one mile;
- (b) to require the person having charge of such vehicle to drive it for such distance (not exceeding one mile) and in such direction and manner and at such speed as the authorised officer shall direct;
- (c) to travel in such vehicle while it is being driven under his direction;
- (d) to test the working and efficiency of the mechanism, fittings and equipment of such vehicle.

(2) Where on an examination under subsection (1), an authorised officer is satisfied that one or more of the statutory requirements as to brakes, silencers, steering gear, tyres, anchorage points and seat belts, lighting equipment and reflectors and such other matters as the Ministry may by regulations prescribe is not complied with, he may, whether or not proceedings are instituted for a breach of the requirement, serve on the owner of the vehicle a notice in writing requiring him to present the vehicle at a specified place within fourteen days from the service of the notice, or within such longer period as any authorised officer may on the application of the owner of the vehicle specify in writing, for an examination for the purpose of ascertaining whether the vehicle then complies with the statutory requirements relating to the use, construction and condition of motor vehicles.

(3) The Ministry may by regulations made with the approval of the Ministry of Finance prescribe the fee to be paid for an examination under subsection (2).

(4) Any person who obstructs an authorised officer acting under this section, or fails without reasonable excuse to comply with any requirement made by an authorised officer under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

- (5) In this section—
- (a) "authorised officer" means a constable, or an officer of the Ministry, who is authorised by the Chief Constable or the Ministry respectively for the purposes of this section;
- (b) "motor vehicle" includes a trailer.

Power to prohibit the driving of defective vehicles. 29D.—(1) Where it appears to any person authorised to examine or inspect a vehicle under section 29C, 50, 58 or 63 (in this section referred to as an "authorised officer") that the condition of a vehicle which he is so authorised to examine or inspect or the condition of any load carried by that vehicle is such that to drive the vehicle further will constitute an immediate risk to public safety, he may issue a notice in writing to the driver of the vehicle—

- (a) prohibiting the driving of the vehicle on a road or other public place except in such manner, subject to such conditions and for such purposes, if any, as may be specified in the notice;
- (b) stating—
  - (i) the breaches of the statutory requirements or the defects which occasioned the prohibition; and

(ii) that in his opinion the breaches or the defects are such that to drive the vehicle any further will constitute an immediate risk to public safety.

(2) A prohibition under subsection (1) with respect to any vehicle shall, subject to any exemption granted therein, come into force as soon as the notice thereof has been issued under that subsection and shall continue in force until it is removed under subsection (3).

(3) A prohibition under subsection (1) may be removed by any authorised officer if he is satisfied, after examining the vehicle, that the defects specified in the notice under subsection (1) (b) have been remedied so that the vehicle no longer constitutes a risk to public safety.

(4) The Ministry may by regulations made with the approval of the Ministry of Finance prescribe the fees to be paid for an examination under subsection (3).

(5) Any person who drives a vehicle on a road or other public place or causes or permits a vehicle to be so driven in contravention of a prohibition under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(6) Any person who obstructs an authorised officer acting under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.".

## Drivers' hours of duty

5.—(1) Section 49 of the principal Act (limitation of continuous hours of duty of drivers of goods vehicles) shall have effect subject to the modifications thereof specified in the following provisions of this Article.

(2) At the end of subsection (1), there shall be added the following words:----

"or

- (d) for continuous periods in any period of seven days amounting in the aggregate to more than the number of hours prescribed for such continuous periods of driving; or
- (e) so that the driver has not at least the prescribed period of rest in any period of seven days.".

(3) At the end of subsection (2), there shall be added the following paragraph:---

"(c) any time spent in driving or resting outside Northern Ireland may be taken into account in calculating any period prescribed under subsection (1).".

(4) At the end of the section, there shall be added the following subsection:---

"(5) The Ministry may by regulations—

- (a) exempt from the provisions of this section goods vehicles of such a class or description as may be specified in the regulations;
- (b) provide that this section shall apply to motor vehicles of such a class or description as may be so specified (not being goods vehicles) as it applies to goods vehicles;

- (c) provide that this section shall apply to goods vehicles of any class or description with such modifications as may be so specified;
- (d) require drivers and employers of drivers to keep or to cause to be kept in such manner as may be so specified records with respect to such matters relevant to the provisions of this section as may be so specified;
- (e) require to be installed in vehicles of such classes or descriptions and in such manner and place as may be so specified, equipment of such type and manner as may be so specified, for recording information as to the use of the vehicle and impose duties on the owners and drivers of the vehicle with respect to the use and operation of the equipment;
- (f) provide for the inspection of any records required to be kept or equipment to be installed under paragraphs (d) and (e) respectively.".

# Employment of traffic wardens

6.—(1) In section 102 (1) of the principal Act (authorisation of traffic wardens to discharge in aid of the police such functions normally undertaken by the police in connection with the control and regulation of road traffic or with the enforcement of the law relating to road traffic as may be prescribed by an order under that section) for the words from "in connection" to "relating to road traffic" there shall be substituted the words "in connection with the control and regulation of, or the enforcement of the law relating to, traffic (including pedestrians) or vehicles on roads or other public places".

(2) After section 102 (1) of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following subsections:---

"(1A) Subject to subsection (1B), an order made under this section may provide that, for the purposes of any functions which traffic wardens are authorised to discharge by the order, references to a constable in all or any of the following sections, that is to say, sections 137, 147, 153 to 155 and 156 (1A), (1) and (2) and the reference to a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in section 27 (1) (a) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 shall include references to a traffic warden.

(1B) Any power of a constable for the purposes of sections 147, 153 to 155 and 156 (1A), (1) and (2) shall be exercisable by a traffic warden under an order made by virtue of subsection (1A) only where—

- (a) the traffic warden is assisting a constable; or
- (b) the traffic warden has reasonable cause to believe that an offence has been committed of a description specified in relation to the section in question for the purposes of this paragraph by the order and, in the case of a power for the purposes of section 153, the order authorises the use of that power in relation to that offence; or
- (c) in the case of a power for the purposes of section 156 (1A), the traffic warden is exercising functions in connection with the control and regulation of traffic (including pedestrians) or vehicles.".

# Road safety information and training

7. For section 116 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following section:—

- (b) make arrangements for giving practical training to road users or any class or description of road users;
- (c) with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, make payments to any authority, body or person to assist or enable that authority, body or person to disseminate such information or advice or make such arrangements.".

#### Driving instruction

8. After section 117 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following sections:—

"Driving instruction for payment to be given only by registered or licensed persons. 117A.—(1) No instruction, for the giving of which payment of money or money's worth is, or is to be, made by, or in respect of, the person to whom the instruction is given, shall be given in the driving of a motor car on a road unless the name of the person giving the instruction is in the register of approved driving instructors or he is the holder of a current licence granted under section 117C authorising him to give such instruction.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), instruction in the driving of a motor car on a road, being instruction which is given free of charge, to a person who is not the holder of a current driving licence, by, or in pursuance of arrangements made by, a person carrying on business in the supply of motor cars, and in connection with the supply of a motor car in the course of that business, shall be deemed to be given for the payment of money by the person to whom the instruction is given.

(3) If instruction is given in contravention of subsection (1), the person by whom it is given, and, if that person is employed by another to give that instruction, that other, as well as that person, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(4) In proceedings against a person for an offence under subsection (3), it shall be a defence for him to prove that he did not know, and had no reasonable cause to believe, that his name or, as the case may be, that of the person employed by him, was not in the register of approved driving instructors at the material time.

(5) Any reference in this section and section 117F to a current licence is a reference to a licence which has not expired and has not been cancelled, revoked or suspended.

Exemption of police instructors. 117B.—(1) Section 117A (1) shall not apply to the giving of instruction by a police instructor in pursuance of arrangements made by the Chief Constable.

(2) In this section—

"police instructor" means—

- (a) a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary whose duties consist of or include, or have consisted of or included, the giving of instruction in the driving of motor cars to members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary; or
- (b) any person employed by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland for the purpose of giving such instruction to members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Licences to give instruction restricted by s. 117A. 117C.—(1) For the purpose of enabling a person to acquire practical experience in giving instruction in driving motor cars with a view to undergoing the examination prescribed under section 117 (2) (b) the Ministry may by regulations provide for the granting, renewal and revocation of licences to give instruction in the driving of a motor car being instruction the giving of which is restricted by section 117A.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations made under that subsection-

- (a) may prescribe, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, the fees to be paid on each application for a licence or renewal of licence;
- (b) may provide for special exemptions in connection with the granting or renewal of licences to persons not residing in Northern Ireland or persons becoming resident in Northern Ireland;
- (c) may provide for the refusal to grant a licence under this section to a person to whom two or more such licences have previously been issued.

Surrender of certificates and licences.

117D. Where-

- (a) the name of a person to whom a certificate prescribed under section 117 (2) (g) has been issued is removed from the register of approved driving instructors in pursuance of regulations made under that section; or
- (b) a licence granted under section 117C to a person expires or is revoked;

he shall, if so required by the Ministry by notice in writing, surrender the certificate or licence, as the case may be, to the Ministry within the period of fourteen days beginning with that on which the notice is given, and if he fails to do so he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Production of certificates and licences to constables and authorised persons. 117E.—(1) A person to whom a certificate prescribed under section 117 (2) (g) is issued, or to whom a licence under section 117C is granted, shall, on being so required by a constable or any person authorised in writing by the Ministry in that behalf, produce the certificate or licence for examination.

(2) Where the name of a person is removed from the register of approved driving instructors or a licence granted under section 117C to a person expires or is revoked, then, if that person fails to satisfy an obligation imposed on him by section 117D, a constable or a person authorised in writing by the Ministry may require him to produce any such certificate issued to him or the licence, and upon its being produced may seize it and deliver it to the Ministry.

(3) If a person who is required under subsection (1) or (2) to produce a document fails to do so, then, unless within five days from the day on which the production of the document was so required, it is produced—

(a) where the requirement was made by a constable, at such police station as, at the time the production was required,

may have been specified by the person required to produce the document or, if he does not specify a police station, at such police station as the constable may specify;

(b) where the requirement was made by a person, other than a constable, at such place as the person by whom the requirement was made may, at the time aforesaid, have specified;

that person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Evidence by certificate as to registration and licences.

- 117F. A certificate purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the Ministry and stating that, on any date,—
  - (a) a person's name was, or was not, on the register of approved driving instructors;
  - (b) the entry of a person's name was made in that register or a person's name was removed therefrom;
  - (c) a person was, or was not, the holder of a current licence under section 117C of this Act; or
  - (d) a licence under the said section 117C of this Act granted to a person came into force or ceased to be in force;

shall be evidence of the facts stated in the certificate in pursuance of this section.".

### Power of police to stop vehicles

9. At the beginning of section 156 of the principal Act, there shall be inserted the following subsection:—

"(1A) A constable in uniform may require any person driving a motor vehicle on a road or other public place or any person riding a pedal cycle on a road or other public place to stop, and any person who fails to stop when he is so required shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.".

# Evidence as to identity of drivers, users and owners of vehicles

10. Section 12 (2) of the Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 1953(a) is hereby repealed and after section 163 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following sections:—

"Evidence by certifi- cate.	163A.—(1) In any proceedings for an offence under this Act, the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 or any other enactment for the time being in force relating to the use of vehicles on roads, a certificate purporting to be signed by a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or a traffic warden and certifying that a person specified in the certificate stated to that member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or to that traffic warden as the case may be—
	(a) that a particular motor vehicle was being driven or used by, or was in the charge of, or belonged to, that person on a particular occasion; or
	(b) that a particular motor vehicle on a particular occasion was used by, or belonged to, a firm in which that person also stated that he was at the time of the statement a partner or an employee; or

(a) 1953 c. 14 (N.I.).

(c) that a particular motor vehicle on a particular occasion was used by, or belonged to, a corporation of which that person also stated that he was at the time of the statement a director, officer or employee;

shall be admissible as evidence for the purpose of determining by whom the vehicle was being driven or used, or in whose charge it was, or to whom it belonged, as the case may be, on that occasion.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be deemed to make a certificate admissible as evidence in proceedings for an offence except in a case where and to the extent to which oral evidence to the like effect would have been admissible in those proceedings, and—

- (a) unless a copy thereof has, not less than seven days before the hearing or trial, been served on the person charged with the offence; or
- (b) if that person, not later than three days before the hearing or trial or within such further time as the court may in special circumstances allow, serves notice on the complainant or his solicitor requiring the attendance at the trial of the person who signed the certificate.

Proof in summary proceedings of identity of driver of vehicle. 163B. Where in the summary trial for an offence to which section 153 applies—

- (a) it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that a requirement under section 153 to give information as to the identity of the driver of a particular vehicle on the particular occasion to which the complaint relates has been served on the accused; and
- (b) a statement in writing is produced to the court purporting to be signed by the accused that the accused was the driver of the vehicle on that occasion;

the court may accept that statement as evidence that the accused was the driver of that vehicle on that occasion.

Admissibility 163C.—(1) A statement contained in a document purporting of records as to be—

- (a) a part of the records maintained by the Ministry in connection with any functions exercisable by the Ministry by virtue of this Act; or
- (b) a copy of a document forming part of those records; or
- (c) a note of any information contained in those records;

and to be authenticated by a person authorised in that behalf by the Ministry shall be admissible in any proceedings as evidence of any fact stated therein to the same extent as oral evidence of that fact is admissible in those proceedings.

(2) In this section—

"document" includes, in addition to a document in writing-

- (a) any map, plan, graph or drawing;
- (b) any photograph;
- (c) any disc, tape, sound track or other device in which sounds or other data (not being visual images) are embodied so as

to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom; and

(d) any film, negative, tape or other device in which one or more visual images are embodied so as to be capable (as aforesaid) of being reproduced therefrom;

"film" includes a microfilm;

"statement" includes any representation of fact, whether made in words or otherwise.

(3) In this section, any reference to a copy of a document includes—

- (a) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (c) but not (d) of the definition of "document" in subsection (2), a transcript of the sounds or other data embodied therein;
- (b) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (d) but not (c) of that definition a reproduction or still reproduction of the image or images embodied therein, whether enlarged or not;
- (c) in the case of a document falling within both those paragraphs, such a transcript together with such a still reproduction; and
- (d) in the case of a document not falling within the said paragraph (d) of which a visual image is embodied in a document falling within that paragraph, a reproduction of that image, whether enlarged or not,

and any reference to a copy of the material part of a document shall be construed accordingly.

(4) Nothing in this section shall enable evidence to be given with respect to any matter other than a matter of the prescribed description.".

# Punishment without prosecution of certain offences

11.--(1) In section 171 (1) of the principal Act (which specifies the offences to which the provisions of sections 172 to 177 with respect to punishment without prosecution of certain offences apply)---

- (a) in paragraph (a) (offence committed in respect of a vehicle by its being left or parked on a road during the hours of darkness without the lights or reflectors required by law), the words "left or parked" shall cease to have effect;
- (b) at the beginning of paragraph (b) there shall be inserted the words "by its obstructing a road or";
- (c) at the end of paragraph (c) there shall be inserted the following words—

"or

- (d) by any such use of the vehicle in contravention of section 27 as the Ministry may by order specify; or
- (e) by its being used in contravention of any provision of Part II or of any order or byelaw made thereunder, being a provision—
  - (i) as to the route to be followed by vehicles of the class to which that vehicle belongs; or
  - (ii) as to roads which are not to be used by such vehicles; or

- (iii) as to the places where such vehicles may not turn so as to face in the opposite direction to that in which they were proceeding or as to the conditions under which such vehicles may so turn; or
- (f) by its being used or kept on a public road (within the meaning of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (a)) without a current licence being exhibited on the vehicle in the manner prescribed under that Act.".

(2) After section 171 (1) of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following subsection:---

"(1A) The Ministry may by order made subject to affirmative resolution specify other offences under this Act to which sections 172 to 177 shall apply.".

(3) In section 172 (4) of the principal Act (which provides that a notice under that section shall specify the offence alleged, and give such particulars of the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information of the allegation) for the words from "specify" to "allegation" there shall be substituted the words "give such particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information thereof".

(4) In section 172 (4) of the principal Act for the words "the clerk of petty sessions" there shall be substituted the words "the person" and in section 174 (2) of the said Act for the words "the clerk of petty sessions" there shall be substituted the words "the person or office".

(5) In section 175 of the principal Act (payment of fixed penalties to or at the office of the clerk of petty sessions)---

- (a) at the end of subsection (1) there shall be added the words "or to such other person or to or at such other office as the Ministry may by order direct";
- (b) in subsection (3) after the words "the appropriate clerk of petty sessions" there shall be inserted the words "or to such other person or to or at such other office as the Ministry may, by an order made under subsection (1), direct" and after the words "the clerk of petty sessions" there shall be inserted the words "or such other person as the Ministry may by an order made under subsection (1) direct";
- (c) in subsection (4), after the words "of clerks of petty sessions" there shall be inserted the words "and of persons or offices specified by an order made under subsection (1)".

# Weighing of motor vehicles

12.—(1) Section 178 of the principal Act (weighing of motor vehicles) shall have effect subject to the modifications thereof specified in the following provisions of this Article.

(2) In subsection (1) for the words "a local authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".

(3) In subsection (2) for the words "a local authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry" and paragraph (b) (under which a person in charge of a motor vehicle may not be required to proceed to a weighbridge or other machine situate more than two miles from the vehicle) shall cease to have effect.

(4) After subsection (2) there shall be inserted the following subsection:---

"(2A) If at the time when the requirement under subsection (1) to proceed to a weighbridge or other machine is made the vehicle is more than one mile from the weighbridge or other machine and the weight is found to be within the limits authorised by law, the Ministry shall pay, in respect of loss occasioned, such amount as in default of agreement may be determined by a single arbitrator appointed by the parties or in default of agreement appointed by the Minister.".

## Invalid carriages

13. After section 182 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following section:---

"Application of Act to invalid carriages. 182A.—(1) The Ministry may by regulations provide that in the case of a vehicle which is an invalid carriage complying with the prescribed requirements and which is being used in accordance with the prescribed conditions—

- (a) no statutory provision prohibiting or restricting the use of footways shall prohibit or restrict the use of that vehicle on a footway;
- (b) if the vehicle is mechanically-propelled, it shall be treated for such purposes of this Act as may be prescribed as not being a motor vehicle.
- (2) In this section—
- "invalid carriage" means a vehicle whether mechanicallypropelled or not, constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person, being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability; and
- "footway" means a way over which the public have a right of way on foot only.".

# Prosecution and punishment of offences

14. In relation to offences under the principal Act as amended by this Order which are committed after the coming into operation of the relevant provisions of this Order, Schedule 3 to the principal Act shall have effect as if—

- (a) for the entries relating to sections 27 and 28 there were substituted the entries in Schedule 1 to this Order relating to sections 27 and 28;
- (b) for the entry relating to section 29 there were substituted the entries in Schedule 1 to this Order relating to sections 29, 29B, 29C, 29D (5) and 29D (6); and
- (c) the entries in Schedule 1 to this Order relating to sections 3, 117A, 117D, 117E and 156 (1A) were inserted in the appropriate places.

# Transfer to Ministry of Home Affairs of functions relating to licensing of drivers

15.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Article, the functions relating to the licensing of drivers conferred on local authorities by the principal Act shall be transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs on the transfer date, and accordingly the provisions of the principal Act set out in column 1 of Schedule 2 shall have effect subject to the modifications specified in column 2 of that Schedule.

(2) The Minister of Home Affairs may by order made subject to affirmative resolution make such modifications and adaptations of any transferred pro-

vision as may be consequential upon, or may be required for the purpose of giving effect to, the provisions of this Article.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2), an order made under that paragraph may make provision for securing that anything done by or in relation to a local authority before the transfer date in connection with any functions transferred or to be transferred by virtue of this Article is deemed on and after that date to have been done by or in relation to the Ministry of Home Affairs and that anything begun before that date by a local authority in the exercise of those functions may be carried on and completed on and after that date by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(4) In this Article-

"the transfer date" means such date or dates as the Minister of Home Affairs may by order appoint for the purposes of paragraph (1); and

"transferred provision" has the same meaning as in section 1 of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (a).

# Financial provision

16. Any increase attributable to this Order in the sums which under the principal Act are to be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament shall be defrayed in like manner as those sums.

#### Amendments and repeals

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17.—(1) The provisions of the principal Act specified in column 1 of Schedule 3 shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in relation thereto in column 2 of that Schedule, being minor amendments or amendments consequential on the foregoing provisions of this Order.

(2) The enactments set out in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 (which include enactments which are spent or unnecessary) are hereby repealed to the extent specified in column 3 of that Schedule.

W. G. Agnew

# SCHEDULES

#### SCHEDULE 1

Article 14.

Amendments of Schedule 3 to the Principal Act as to Punishments for Offences

Section of Act	General Nature of Offence	Mode of Prosecution	Punishment
3	Failure to comply with con- ditions or restrictions of full licence treated as provisi- onal licence.	Summary	A fine of £50.
27	Using or causing or permitt- ing to be used, motor veh- icle or trailer on road when not complying with regula- tions as to construction and use.	Summary	<ul> <li>(i) Where the vehicle is a goods vehicle and—</li> <li>(a) the non-compliance with the regulations is such as to cause, or to be likely to cause danger by reason of the condition of the vehicle, its trailer, or its parts or accessories, the</li> </ul>

(a) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.),

Section of Act	General Nature of Offence	Mode of Prosecution	Punishment
			number of passengers carried by it, or the weight distribution, pack- ing or adjustment of its load; or
			(b) the regulation not com- plied with is one relating to a construction and use requirement as to brakes, steering gear, tyres or any description of weight—
			A fine of £200.
			(ii) In any other case, a fine of £50.
28	Selling etc. motor vehicle not complying with regulations as to construction and use or altering vehicle so as not to so comply.	Summary	A fine of £100.
2 <del>9</del>	Obstructing authorised officer testing condition of used vehicles at sale rooms, etc.	Summary	A fine of £50.
29B	Using, causing or permitting to be used, motor vehicle on a road or other public place without vehicle test certificate.	Şummary	A fine of £100.
29C	Obstructing authorised officer carrying out roadside exam- ination or failure to comply with requirement made by an authorised officer.	Summary	A fine of £50.
29D (5)	Driving or causing or per- mitting to be driven, vehicle in contravention of prohi- bition on driving it as being defective.	Summary	A fine of £50.
29D (6)	Obstructing authorised officer issuing prohibition notice.	Summary	A fine of £50.
117 <b>A</b>	Giving of paid driving in- struction by unregistered or unlicensed persons or their employers.	Summary	A fine of £100 or six months imprisonment or both.
117D	Failure to surrender certifi- cate or licence within 14 days of notice.	Summary	A fine of £50.

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Section of Act	General Nature of Offence	Mode of Prosecution	Punishment
11 <b>7</b> E	Failure to produce certificate of registration or licence as driving instructor.	Summary	A fine of £50.
156 (1A)	Failure to stop when so re- quired by constable in uni- form.	Summary	A fine of £50.

# SCHEDULE 2

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Article 15.

Amendments of the Principal Act consequential upon the Transfer of Functions to the Ministry of Home Affairs

Provision amended	Amendment
Section 5	In subsection (1)—
	for the words "the licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry"; paragraph (b) shall be omitted; and in paragraphs (c) and (d) for the words "the authority" where they twice occur there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
	In subsection (4)— for the words "the licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
	In subsection (6)— the words "by a licensing authority" shall be omitted.
Section 9	In subsection (1)— in paragraph (d) for the words "the authority" where they twice occur there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 10	In subsection (1)— for the words "a licensing authority" and "the licensing authority" wherever they occur there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
	In subsection (3)— for the words "the licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 11	In subsection (1)— for the words "a licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 12	In subsection (2)— for the words "a licensing authority" and "the licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 15	The words from "and for the communication" to "particulars of licences," shall be omitted.

Provision amended	Amendment
Section 169	In subsection (3)— in paragraph (a) the words "to be granted, where he is the holder of a driving licence, by the licensing authority by which the driving licence was issued" shall be omitted; and in paragraph (b), for the words "the licensing authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 170	In subsection (8)— for the words "the licensing authority by which the licence was granted and to the licensing authority in whose area that person resides", "the authority by which it was granted" and "that authority" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
	In subsection (9)— for the words "the licensing authority to whom the disqualified person's licence has been for- warded under subsection (8)" there shall be sub- stituted the words "the Ministry on receiving the disqualified person's licence forwarded under subsection (8)".
	In subsection (10)— for the words "the licensing authority in whose area the person affected by the order or conviction resides and to the authority who issued the licence" there shall be substituted the words "the Ministry".
Section 186	In subsection (1)— the words "by a licensing authority or" shall be omitted.
Section 190	In subsection (1)— the definition of "licensing authority" shall be omitted.
Article 17 (1).	SCHEDULE 3
CONSEQUENTIAL O	r Minor Amendments of the Principal Act
Provisions amended and subject-matter thereof	Amendment

Section 3 (form and application of licences).

#### Amendment

In subsection (1), for the words "in the prescribed form" there shall be substituted the words "in such form as the Ministry may determine" and the words "in the prescribed manner" shall cease to have effect.

In subsection (2), after the words "shall not" there shall be inserted the words ", subject to subsection (3),".

After subsection (2) there shall be inserted the following subsections:-

"(3) A driving licence which apart from this subsection, authorises its holder to drive motor vehicles of certain classes or descriptions only shall also authorise him to drive motor vehicles of all other classes or descriptions subject to the same conditions and restrictions as if he were authorised by a provisional licence to drive the last-mentioned vehicles; but a driving licence shall

**Provisions amended and** subject-matter thereof

Section 3 (form and application of licences).—cont.

Section 5 (duration of provisional licences).

Section 9 (driving licences).

Section 10 (revocation of licences).

#### Amendment

not by virtue of this subsection authorise a person to drive—

- (a) a vehicle which he is prohibited from driving by section 2; or
- (b) such a motor cycle as is mentioned in section 7 unless he has passed the test there mentioned.

(4) In subsection (3), the first reference to a driving licence does not include a reference to a driving licence granted before that subsection came into force or any other licence of a description prescribed for the purposes of this subsection.

(5) A person who fails to comply with any condition or restriction applicable to him by virtue of subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."

In subsection (2), for the words "six months" there shall be substituted the words "twelve months".

In subsection (1), for the words from the beginning of the subsection to the end of paragraph (c) there shall be substituted the following—

"9.—(1) Save where this Act otherwise provides, the Ministry shall, on payment of such fee as the Ministry, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, may prescribe, grant a driving licence to any person—

- (a) who makes an application for it in such manner and containing such particulars as the Ministry may specify and who furnishes the Ministry with such evidence or further evidence in support of the application as the Ministry may require; and
- (b) who surrenders to the Ministry any previous licence granted to him after this subsection comes into force or furnishes the Ministry with an explanation for not surrendering it which the Ministry considers adequate; and
- (c) who is not disqualified by reason of age or otherwise for obtaining the driving licence for which he is applying; and".

For subsection (2) there shall be substituted the following subsection:---

"(2) If---

- (a) the Ministry is at any time satisfied on inquiry—
  - (i) that a licence holder is suffering from a disease or physical disability mentioned in section 4 (1); and
  - (ii) that the Ministry would be required by virtue of section 4 (2) to refuse an application for a licence made by him at that time; or

Provisions amended and subject-matter thereof

Section 10 (revocation of licences)—cont.

Section 12 (restrictions on newly qualified drivers).

Section 15 (power to make regulations for the purposes of Part I).

Section 27 (construction and equipment regulations).

Section 30 (classification of motor vehicles).

Section 52 (regulations as to certification of goods vehicles).

Section 61 (fees on application for public service vehicle licence and public service vehicle driver's licence).

Section 64 (fees on application for inspection of large private passenger vehicles).

#### Amendment

(b) a licence holder has, without reasonable excuse, failed or refused to submit himself for medical examination when required to do so by the Ministry,

then, whether or not the licence holder has previously passed a test the Ministry may subject to subsection (3), after giving the licence holder notice of their intention to do so, revoke the licence, and the licence holder shall be guilty of an offence under this Act if he does not, within ten days from the date of the notice, deliver the licence to the Ministry for cancellation.".

In subsection (1), for the words from ", or such lesser period" to "previously held by him" there shall be substituted the words "(calculated without taking into account any period during which he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a licence for driving a motor vehicle of that class or description) or such lesser period similarly calculated as may be prescribed, after passing that test".

The words "not exceeding five shillings" shall cease to have effect.

At the end of subsection (3) there shall be added the words "and may issue permits authorising, subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be specified in such permits, the use on roads of motor vehicles or trailers carrying loads of exceptional dimensions".

In subsection (1), for the words "section 182" there shall be substituted the words "sections 182 and 182A".

In subsection (1), for the words from "may exempt" onwards there shall be substituted the following paragraphs:—

- "(a) may provide that fees of such amounts as may be prescribed with the approval of the Ministry of Finance shall be payable on an application for a certificate under section 47; and
  - (b) may exempt from the provisions of section 46 goods vehicles or any class or description thereof brought temporarily into Northern Ireland for use on roads therein".

In subsection (1), in paragraph (a), for the words "the fees to be paid for the issue of" there shall be substituted the words "the fees to be paid on application for, and on the issue of,".

In paragraph (a), after the words "for those purposes" there shall be inserted the words "on payment of such fees as the Ministry may, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, prescribe". Provisions amended and subject-matter thereof

Section 67 (heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences).

Section 75 (insurance against third party liabilities).

Section 89 (power to provide parking places for vehicles).

Section 103 (employment of traffic wardens as parking attendants).

In subsection (2), in paragraph (a), for the words "ten years" there shall be substituted the words "five years".

In subsection (2) (a), for the words "of a county or county borough" there shall be inserted the words "of the City of Belfast or the council of the City of Londonderry", and the words "or the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners" shall cease to have effect.

After subsection (1) there shall be inserted the following subsection:—

"(1A) The function conferred on a road authority by subsection (1) (a) shall, for the purposes of section 34 (power to acquire land) of the Roads Act (Northern Ireland) 1948 be treated as a function conferred on a road authority by that Act.".

For section 103 there shall be substituted the following section:—

"Employment of traffic wardens as parking attendants. 103. The Chief Constable may, with the approval of the Police Authority, make arrangements with a local road authority for the employment of traffic wardens—

- (a) as parking attendants under section 89 (3) and 97 (3) at any parking place provided or controlled by that authority; and
- (b) to enforce limited waiting restrictions imposed by byelaws made by any such road authority under section 19;

and for the payment to the Police Authority of such sums as will make good to the Police Authority any expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred by the Police Authority in relation to traffic wardens while so employed.".

In subsection (1), after the word "section" there shall be inserted the words "and sections 117A to 117F".

In subsection (5), for the word "of" where it first occurs there shall be substituted the word "or".

In subsection (4), after the word "where" there shall be inserted the words "at the time of the commission of such second or subsequent offence".

In subsections (3) and (5), for the words "the Ministry" there shall be substituted the words "the Police Authority for Northern Ireland".

Section 118 (dangerous driving).

Section 117

structors).

Section 147 (vehicle causing obstruction).

(driving in-

# Amendment

# Provisions amended and subject-matter thereof

Section 151 (failure to report an accident).

# Amendment

In subsection (4), for the words "or not to be disqualified" there shall be substituted the words "or may order that the disqualification be limited to the driving of a motor vehicle of the same class or description as the vehicle in relation to which the offence was committed or may order that he shall not be disqualified".

Section 156 (enforcement powers of constable).

In subsection (1), for the words "or certificate of insurance" there shall be substituted the words ", certificate of insurance or vehicle test certificate".

In subsection (3), after the word "insurance" where it twice occurs there shall be inserted the words "or vehicle test certificate".

In paragraph (b) for the word "prosecutor" there

shall be substituted the word "complainant".

Section 158 (periods of limitation).

Article 17 (2).

#### **SCHEDULE 4**

#### ENACIMENTS REPEALED

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
61 & 62 Vict., c. 37.	The Local Government (Ire- land) Act 1898.	Section 88.
1953 c. 14.	The Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 1953.	Section 12 (2).
1968 c. 19.	The Road Traffic Act (Nor- thern Ireland) 1968.	The whole Act so far as un- repealed.
1970 c. 2.	The Road Traffic Act (Nor- thern Ireland) 1970.	In section 3 (1) the words "in the prescribed manner".
		Section 5 (1) (b).
		Section 5 (3).
		In section 5 (6) the words "by a licensing authority".
		In section 15 the words "and for the communication by licensing authorities to one another of particulars of licences" and the words "not exceeding five shillings".
		In section 46 (1) the words "for the carriage of goods".
		In section 46 (2) the words "for the carriage of goods".
		In section 47 (1) (c) the word "be" where it first occurs.

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
1970 c. 2.	The Road Traffic Act (Nor-	Section 51.
	thern Ireland) 1970.—cont.	Section 59.
		In section 61 (2) the words "for the purpose of carrying persons making only a tem- porary stay in Northern Ire- land" and the word "to" where it occurs before the word "modify".
		In section 66 (1) the words "and Schedule 1".
		In section 67 (2) the words "Subject to the provisions of Schedule 1".
		Section 73.
		In section 74 the words "and in Schedule 1".
		In section 75 (2) (a) the words "or the Belfast City and District Water Commiss- ioners".
		Section 77 (2) (b) (i).
		In section 122 (4) the words "or, in the case of an offence under section 121, a specimen of breath".
		In section 122 (4), paragraph (c) and the word "or" at the end of paragraph (b).
		Section 122 (7).
		In section 169 (3) the words "to be granted, where he is the holder of a driving licence, by the licensing authority by which the driving licence was issued".
		In section 171 (1) (a) the words "left or parked".
		In section 178 (2), paragraph (b) and the word "or" at the end of paragraph (a).
		In section 186 (1) the words "by a licensing authority or".
		In section 190 (1) the definition of "licensing authority".
		Schedule 1.

# EXPLANATORY NOTE

# (This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order makes a number of modifications to the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970. These include modifications relating to the physical fitness of applicants for driving licences, the testing of motor vehicles, the continuous periods for which persons may drive goods vehicles, the functions which may be discharged by traffic wardens, the compulsory registration of driving instructors, the powers of the police to stop vehicles on a road, the use of invalid carriages and the prosecution of and punishment for certain offences. The Order also provides for the transfer from local authorities to the Ministry of Home Affairs of functions relating to the licensing of drivers of motor vehicles.