
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 1074

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

Introductory

Title and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

(2) This Order shall come into operation on such day as the Head of the Department may by order appoint^{F1}.

(3) Subject to paragraphs 1 and 8 of Schedule 2, nothing in any provision of this Order applies to a person who becomes a qualified driver before the day on which the provision comes into operation.

F1 fully exercised by SR 1998/378
--

Interpretation

2.—(1) Subject to Article 12(1), the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 shall apply to Article 1 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(2) In this Order—

“the Department” means the Department of the Environment;

[^{F2}“full Great Britain licence” means a Great Britain licence other than a Great Britain provisional licence,

“Great Britain provisional licence” means a Great Britain licence which corresponds to a provisional licence.]

“notice” means notice in writing;

“the Offenders Order” means the Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996;

“the Order of 1981” means the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981;

“probationary period” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 3(1);

“qualified driver” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 3(2);

“the Road Traffic Orders” means the Order of 1981, the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and the Offenders Order.

(3) Expressions used in this Order which are also used in Part II of the Order of 1981 shall be construed in the same way as in that Order.

(4) Expressions used in this Order which are also used in the Offenders Order shall be construed in the same way as in that Order.

Changes to legislation: *The Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, Cross Heading: Introductory is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

F2 2003 NI 16

Probationary period for newly qualified drivers

3.—(1) For the purposes of this Order, a person's probationary period is, subject to Article 9, the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which he becomes a qualified driver.

(2) For the purposes of this Order, a person becomes a qualified driver on the first occasion on which he passes—

- (a) any test of competence to drive mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) or (c) of Article 5(1) of the Order of 1981;
- (b) any test of competence to drive conducted under the law of—
 - (i) ^{F3}an EEA State;
 - (ii) the Isle of Man;
 - (iii) any of the Channel Islands; or
 - (iv) Gibraltar.

^{F4}(3)

F3 Word in art. 3(2)(b)(i) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Driving Licences \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/194\)](#), regs. 1(1), **5(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

F4 Art. 3(3) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Driving Licences \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/194\)](#), regs. 1(1), **5(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, Cross Heading: Introductory is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 para. 5(6) added by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(a\)\(iv\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 8(4) added by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(c\)\(iv\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5(1ZB)-(1ZC) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5A inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 8(1ZB)-(1ZC) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(c\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 8A inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- art. 5(1ZB)(1ZC) inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- art. 5(4) added by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- art. 5A5B inserted by [2016 c. 11 \(N.I.\) s. 20\(3\)](#)