



Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART III

LICENSING OF DRIVERS OF VEHICLES

Granting of licences, their form and duration

98 Form of licence.

[^{F1}(1) A licence shall be in the form of a photocard of a description specified by the Secretary of State or such other form as he may specify and—

- (a) the licence shall state whether, apart from subsection (2) below, it authorises its holder to drive motor vehicles of all classes or of certain classes only and, in the latter case, specify those classes,
- (b) the licence shall specify (in such manner as the Secretary of State may determine) the restrictions on the driving of vehicles of any class in pursuance of the licence to which its holder is subject by virtue of section 101 of this Act and any conditions on the driving of vehicles of any class in pursuance of the licence to which its holder is subject by virtue of section 92(7ZA) of this Act, and
- (c) in the case of a provisional licence, the licence ^{F2}... shall specify (in such manner as the Secretary of State may determine) the conditions subject to which it is granted.

^{F1}(1A) The Secretary of State may specify different descriptions of photocards, and different forms of licences not in the form of a photocard, for different cases and may determine the form of licence to be granted in any case.]

(2) Subject to subsections (3) [^{F3}, (4) and (4A)] below, a [^{F4}person who holds a licence which] authorises its holder to drive motor vehicles of certain classes only (not being

- [^{F5}(a) a provisional licence, or
- (b) any other prescribed description of licence)]

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 98 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 June 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

[^{F6}may]drive motor vehicles of all other classes subject to the same conditions as if he were authorised by a provisional licence to drive motor vehicles of those other classes.

(3) [^{F7}Subsection (2) above does not] authorise a person to drive—

(a) a vehicle of a class for the driving of which he could not, by reason of the provisions of section 101 of this Act, lawfully hold a licence, or

^{F8}(b)

[^{F9}(c) unless he has passed a test of competence to drive, a motor bicycle [^{F10}or moped] on a road in circumstances in which, by virtue of section 97(3)(e) of this Act, a provisional licence would not authorise him to drive it before he had passed that test.]

(4) In such cases [^{F11}or as respects such classes of vehicles]as the Secretary of State may prescribe, the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) above shall not apply or shall apply subject to such limitations as he may prescribe.

[^{F12}(4A) [^{F13}Subsection (2) above does not]authorise a person on whom a notice under section 92(5)(b) of this Act has been served to drive motor vehicles otherwise than in accordance with the limits specified in the notice.]

^{F14}(5)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 98(1)(1A) substituted (1.7.1998) for s. 98(1) by [S.I. 1998/1420, reg. 7\(2\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 98(1)(c) repealed (8.6.2015) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), s. 61\(1\)\(10\), Sch. 3 para. 7, Sch. 7\(4\); S.I. 2015/560, art. 3 \(with arts. 4-9\)](#)
- F3** Words substituted by [Road Traffic \(Driver Licensing and Information Systems\) Act 1989 \(c. 22, SIF 107:1\), s. 5\(10\)\(a\)](#)
- F4** Words substituted by [S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2\(1\), 3, Sch. 1 para. 4\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- F5** S. 98(2)(a)(b) substituted for paras. (a)–(c) by [Road Traffic \(Driver Licensing and Information Systems\) Act 1989 \(c. 22, SIF 107:1\), s. 7, Sch. 3 para. 11\(b\)](#)
- F6** Word substituted by [S. I. 1990/144, regs. 2\(1\), 3, Sch. 1 para. 4\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- F7** Words substituted by [S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2\(1\), 3, Sch. 1 para. 4\(c\)](#)
- F8** S. 98(3)(b) omitted (19.1.2013) by virtue of [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\), reg. 1\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 3](#)
- F9** S. 98(3)(c) and word immediately preceding it inserted by [Road Traffic \(Driver Licensing and Information Systems\) Act 1989 \(c. 22, SIF 107:1\), s. 7, Sch. 3 para. 11\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- F10** Words in s. 98(3)(c) inserted (1.7.1998) by [S.I. 1998/1420, reg. 7\(3\)](#)
- F11** Words inserted by [Road Traffic \(Driver Licensing and Information Systems\) Act 1989 \(c. 22, SIF 107:1\), s. 7, Sch. 3 para. 11\(d\)](#)
- F12** S. 98(4A) inserted by [Road Traffic \(Driver Licensing and Information Systems\) Act 1989 \(c. 22, SIF 107:1\), s. 5\(10\)\(b\)](#)
- F13** Words substituted by [S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2\(3\), 3, Sch. 3 para. 1\(b\)](#)
- F14** S. 98(5) repealed (1.7.1992) by [Road Traffic Act 1991 \(c. 40, SIF 107:1\), ss. 17\(3\), 83, Sch. 8; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, Sch.](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 98(2) restricted by [S.I. 1987/1378, reg. 34](#) (as inserted by [S.I. 1990/842, reg. 11\)](#)
- C2** S. 98(2) excluded (1.4.1991) by [S.I. 1990/2612, reg. 10\(1\)\(2\)\(3\)](#)
S. 98(2) restricted (12.11.1999) by [S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 19\(1\)\(3\)](#)
- C3** S. 98(2) applied by [S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 19\(1\)](#) (as substituted (19.1.2013) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\), reg. 1\(2\), Sch. 3 para. 13\(a\)](#))

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- C4** S. 98(2) restricted by S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 19(4) (as substituted (19.1.2013) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 13(b)**)
- C5** S. 98(2) excluded by S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 19(4A)(4B) (as inserted (19.1.2013) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 13(c)**)
- C6** S. 98(2) excluded by S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 19(4B) (as inserted (19.1.2013) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 13(c)**)
- C7** S. 98(3) excluded (1.4.1991) by [S.I. 1990/2612](#), **reg. 10(1)(2)(3)**
S. 98(3) excluded (23.6.1999) by [S.I. 1999/1736](#), **art. 8(4)**
- C8** S. 98(3)(c) excluded by S.I. 1999/2864, reg. 69(1) (as substituted (with (2)) (19.1.2013) by [The Motor Vehicles \(Driving Licences\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/977\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 41(a)**)
- C9** S. 98(3)(c) excluded by [S.I. 1987/1378](#), **regs. 23E(3), 23G(3)** (as inserted by [S.I. 1990/2334](#), **reg. 4**)
S. 98(3)(c) excluded (12.11.1999) by [S.I. 1999/2864](#), **reg. 69(1)(5)**

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 98(1)(c) words repealed by 2006 c. 49 s. 38(3)(a) Sch. 7(11)
- s. 98(1)(c) words substituted by 2006 c. 49 s. 38(3)(b)
- s. 98(2) inserted by 2000 c. 38 Sch. 29 para. 4
- s. 98(3)(c) and word repealed by 2000 c. 38 Sch. 31 Pt. 5(1)

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

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

- s. 34A inserted by 2000 c. 37 Sch. 7 para. 6 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amending provision has been repealed)
- s. 41(2)(m) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 18(1)(a)
- s. 41(2)(ba) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(3)
- s. 49(3A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 48(1)
- s. 66(7A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(5)
- s. 85(1) words omitted (temp.) by S.I. 2019/648 reg. 2(5)(a) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 2(5)(a) substituted (1.9.2020) by S.I. 2020/818, regs. 1(b), Sch. 6 para. 39(2)(c)(i))
- s. 85(1) words omitted (temp.) by S.I. 2019/648 reg. 2(5)(d) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 2(5)(a) substituted (1.9.2020) by S.I. 2020/818, regs. 1(b), Sch. 6 para. 39(2)(c)(ii))
- s. 85(2) added by 1988 c. 54 Sch. 2 para. 17(c)
- s. 97(1)(c)(ia) words repealed by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 6(2)(b) Sch. 7(4)
- s. 97(1)(d)(ii) words omitted by S.I. 2018/1251 reg. 2(4)
- s. 97(1ZA) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 38(2)
- s. 108(1BA) inserted by S.I. 2018/1251 reg. 2(5)(c)
- s. 123/123A substituted for s. 123 by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 2
- s. 123A(3) words inserted by 2009 c. 17 s. 1(3)
- s. 124(3)-(5) inserted by 2009 c. 17 s. 3
- s. 124(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 2(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(3A)-(3D) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3(2) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(5A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3(3) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125A(5)-(7E) substituted for s. 125A(5)-(7) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 6(3)
- s. 125ZA inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 5
- s. 125ZA(2)(b) word omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4(2)(a) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(2)(d) and word inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4(2)(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(c) word omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4(3)(c) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)

- s. 125ZA(4)(c) words substituted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(ba)(bb) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(ca) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 126(5) omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 6](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 126A inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 126A omitted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 8A (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 126A heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128A inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 11](#)
- s. 128A(4) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 11 (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(4\)](#)
- s. 128B inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 9](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 128ZA inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 1\(1\)](#)
- s. 128ZB inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 2](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB inserted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 10A (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB substituted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 10A (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZA(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZA(4) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 131(A1)-(C1) inserted by 2006 c. 49, Sch. 6 para. 13(1A) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2023/1286 Sch. 3 para. 92\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 131(3)(b)(c) substituted for s. 131(3)(b) and word by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13\(4\)](#)
- s. 131(6) inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#)

- s. 131(6) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(9) (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(5\)](#)
- s. 131(6) substituted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(9) (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(5\)](#)
- s. 132-133ZA and cross-heading substituted for ss. 132, 133 and cross-heading by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 14](#)
- s. 133(2)(a) words omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10\(a\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133(2)(b) words omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133D(1A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 14\(2\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 140(1)(2) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23\(2\)](#)
- s. 140(1A) inserted in earlier affecting provision 2006 c. 49, Sch. 6 para. 23(2) by [S.I. 2023/1286 Sch. 3 para. 92\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 140(3) s. 140 renumbered as s. 140(3) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23\(1\)](#)
- s. 141A(5) words repealed by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 24Sch. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 143(1A) repealed (cond.) by [S.I. 2019/1047 Sch. 2 para. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 143(1A) by 2018 c. 18, Sch. para. 17 was repealed (1.11.2019) by The Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1047), reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 1 (with reg. 5) without ever being brought into force.)
- s. 173(2)(g)-(gb) substituted for s. 173(2)(g) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 27](#)
- s. 173(2)(n) and word inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 37\(8\)](#)
- s. 174(1)(da) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 28](#)
- s. 183(6A) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 29](#)