



## GREEN LIGHT FOR YOUNG DRIVER RULES

The government has started consulting on its plans for young drivers. The first stage will be a green paper, published in June.



While the government is asking a wide range of organisations to contribute, it is clear that the main thrust of the paper will be some form of graduated licensing. There are advantages and disadvantages and we've covered them in our **full response**. But I'm going to concentrate on the specific proposal which is currently being considered that there should be a minimum of a year's learning period with 120 hours of learning.

While that initially sounds like a good thing, we must ensure that the year's learning is put to good use. My concern is that this could simply mean extra hours and cost with a driving instructor. That's why we have recommended to the government that this should include a learning log and online training. There is clearly a concern that a learning log could end up being cut and paste examples taken from the internet – however the benefits of learning through reflection are well documented.

There must be plans to encourage parents to take an active part in their children's learning. This could even mean a change in lifestyle, for example, letting young people do the driving when you pick them up from a night out or a friend's house.

But there are those who simply cannot afford extra tuition. There are parents with commitments that mean they simply don't have the extra time to spend in a car with a learner. There are families without a car.

In these cases there needs to be a community response. The best examples of this come from Australia, where programs run by volunteers offer on road experience to young people. The IAM, with our track record of volunteering, is ideally placed to advise the government on how this could work.

Of course, the problem isn't so much about newly qualified drivers – it's the younger ones who are doing the crashing. The learning period needs to be based on age. For example, 17-20 year olds have 12 months minimum learning, 20-25 year olds, six months and so on.

Our recent members' poll showed broad support for some form of graduated licences, but they are far from perfect. For example, I don't believe that curfews or restrictions that prevent young drivers gaining experience are the way forward.

This is a once in a generation opportunity. That's why we will be working with the government to ensure that they get the detail for their proposals right.

**Simon Best**  
Chief executive



# DTE Update and Usage

In October 2012, we launched remote DTE to the local groups, and thanks to all the group committee members' hard work and acceptance of the system, we now have 80% of groups regularly using it.

We are regularly asked what you should do with DTE; below is a summary of features that are available to groups to make the control and amendment of key actions in the Skill for Life process and group management far more efficient.

- Update enrolments
- Update test-ready
- Keep observer and committee member lists up to date
- Cleanse group member links

Recently a group members' area was introduced, enabling members to use our database instead of their own. The point of having DTE available to groups is to

ensure that group members and Chiswick are always on the same page and have the most up-to-date information. Currently it is not a requirement to have the members list up-to-date, as we are aware that some groups have their own lists that hold a lot more information than DTE is currently capable of. DTE is especially beneficial to those groups who have traditionally kept their member information on a simple Excel spreadsheet.

### Benefits include:

- Access to data held by the IAM on the group
- Access to group members' information (address, contact info, membership status)

- Access to test status
- Access to test report and results
- Saving on postage and time
- Quicker turnaround on booking test with examiner
- Automation of processes, leading to fewer errors
- Quality and efficiency increased
- Greater customer satisfaction
- Visibility increased – same data being viewed by groups and IAM Chiswick

If you require any further information or help with DTE then please contact Jags Ladwa on **020 8996 9756**  
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## Local Observer Qualification

We are well under way with the countrywide roll out of the IMI Award for National Observers. This means we can now begin the process of piloting the Local Observer Level Award in Regions 2 and 6. The Local Observer Level Award will eventually replace the existing Group Qualified Observer in much the same way as the National Observer Award is replacing Senior Observer.

### 1. Why should I (as a local observer) take it?

This is an opportunity to gain an externally approved qualification, further recognising the ability of you as an observer.

### 2. When should I take it?

Initially we are only piloting the Local Observer qualification in regions 2 and 6. You should register your interest by submitting the registration form in the coming months. We will then start to schedule your assessment, as assessors are trained from existing National Observers. The qualification is free of charge to you and your group.

### 3. Who is carrying it out?

Your assessment will be conducted by selected National Observers who have been trained and registered with IMI Awards to conduct Local Observer assessments.

### 4. What is the process?

The process is relatively simple: register your requirement to do the qualification through your group, then download

the competencies and progress log book, together with the assessment sheet. Work with your group's training adviser to meet the competencies, then advise the IAM when you're ready for assessment and we will assign an IMI Awards registered assessor to conduct the assessment.

### 5. What happens if I am referred?

If you are referred, the competency area(s) that you were referred upon will be required to be taken again; there will be a charge to your group of £30 for the reassessment.

### 6. What's in it for me?

You gain an externally approved qualification that can be used outside the IAM. This will eventually be in the only route into becoming an Observer.

### 7. How will associates benefit?

Associates will benefit through knowing that their observer has been trained to achieve an externally approved qualification standard that is also fully approved by the IAM. Therefore they will receive a consistent standard.

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