

Your Driving Assessment with Cornwall Mobility

What is a Driving Assessment?

A driving assessment is not a driving test. There will be no formal examination or theory questions on the day of your visit. A driving assessment is a way of assessing your ability to control your vehicle safely and in comfort. It is also to determine if adaptations need to be fitted to your vehicle to ensure this.

Who will be there?

Your assessment will be carried out by a Driving Advisor. He or she will have specialist knowledge and skills in disability awareness, medical conditions and adapted vehicle controls. An Occupational Therapist (OT) may also be present if a cognitive assessment is required (for example if you have a neurological condition). You are welcome to bring a friend or relative with you to the assessment if you wish, both for support and for providing further information to the assessors.

What will happen?

Your assessment will last about 1½ to 2½ hours. This is what you can expect:

Interview - The Driving Advisor will ask you about your medical condition, licensing details and any mobility problems you have.

Physical Assessment – The Driving Advisor will ask you to perform some simple physical exercises seated in the chair. This is to assess your co-ordination, range of movement, strength and dexterity for driving purposes.

Vision – The Driving Advisor will check that you can read a standard vehicle number plate from the legally required distance.

Cognitive Assessment – An Occupational Therapist may be present to carry out a basic cognitive and perceptual assessment. This looks at the way your brain interprets what you see around you and the way you use that information to make decisions and plan. It includes tabletop exercises that test memory, attention, concentration, speech and language, voluntary motor movement, decision-making and visual perception.

Assessment Rig – A Rig may be used if we need to test your limb strengths or your reaction and decision times. The Rig can also assess your ability to use certain vehicle adaptations.

If after the first section we are happy that you will be able to manage a car safely you will progress to the on-road section.

Vehicle Preparation – Before the drive, the Driving Advisor will select an assessment vehicle, which will usually be fitted with dual controls. You may be able to use your own vehicle if the Driving Advisor is happy to assess you in it.

The Driving Advisor will check that you are able to reach and correctly use all of the controls in the car. They will also ensure that you are seated comfortably, can fasten the seatbelt and can adjust the driver's seat and mirrors.

Initial Drive – The Driving Advisor will ask you to drive around the quiet car parking areas of the assessment location. This is to allow you to get used to the vehicle

On Road Drive – You will then drive our pre-planned assessment route, unless the Driving Advisor feels it is inappropriate. The full route lasts about 45 minutes but if this is too long for you please discuss this with the Driving Advisor. Obviously if you are using new controls for the first time we do not expect you to be brilliant with them. All we are looking for is potential to manage them after lessons.

Throughout all parts of the driving assessment, you will be given clear instructions and guidance. The Driving Advisor will not ask you to do anything which you do not feel comfortable with or which will affect the safety of yourself and other road users.

What happens after the drive?

At the end of the assessment process, the Driving Advisor will summarise your performance. They may suggest some changes in your driving technique and may give you advice on further driving tuition or adaptations they recommend. As part of this summary, the Driving Advisor will tell you if you need to notify the DVLA and also where to go for driving tuition or to fit adaptations to your car. We will send you a written report within 10 days of the date of the assessment.

Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Assessments

If the DVLA have referred you for an assessment with us, the following exceptions will apply:

- The DVLA will cover the cost of the assessment.
- You will not receive a copy of the assessment report.
- The DVLA, based on our report, have the option of revoking your driving licence.
- Your licence may be revoked if you fail to attend a DVLA assessment.

For further information regarding the DVLA please visit their website www.dvla.gov.uk.

How can I prepare for my assessment?

1. Bring any glasses that you use for driving and for reading.
2. Bring your driving licence or, if the DVLA currently have your licence, any letters you have from the DVLA to prove your driving entitlement.
3. Bring any medication/ inhalers or snacks you are likely to need.
4. If you come by car, please ask another driver to come with you, who is insured to drive the car that you come in (just in case you are unable to drive back for any reason).
5. You must ensure that head restraints and seatbelts are fitted in the rear of the vehicle and that they are fully functioning if you wish to be considered for a drive in your own car and the Occupational Therapist is present.
6. Please make sure you have informed the DVLA if you have a medical condition which may affect your driving either now or in the future. It is the legal responsibility of every licence holder to keep the DVLA informed of any relevant health issues.
7. If you have any other questions please ring and talk to us. We are here as a resource and our ultimate aim is to keep you driving independently and safely if at all possible. We will be respectful, objective and honest with you and ask only that you are too. We look forward to meeting and helping you