

[Driving with Parkinson's disease](#)

Parkinson's disease is a progressive condition that may affect someone's ability to drive safely. Dr Wyn Parry, DVLA's Senior Medical Adviser, tells us more about driving with this condition.



I joined DVLA as Senior Medical Adviser after thirty years in the NHS. It's my job to advise on how certain medical conditions can affect someone's ability to drive. After blogging last year about [driving with diabetes](#), this time I'd like to focus on driving with [Parkinson's disease](#).

Parkinson's disease affects the nervous system and may affect the muscles, causing movement problems. In some circumstances, it can even affect the functions of the brain.

Driving a vehicle safely

Being able to drive a vehicle requires high levels of skill and ability. A driver either needs to be unaffected by a medical condition, or have a medical condition that is controlled so that symptoms are highly unlikely to cause any problems.

Sadly, Parkinson's is a progressive condition and deterioration is inevitable. It'll affect many activities, including driving. This is why it is so important that all drivers who are diagnosed with Parkinson's must [tell DVLA](#). The rate of deterioration varies, but recognising that it will happen is important. It allows the patient and their family time to make plans for any lifestyle changes that may be necessary.

Knowing you will eventually lose the ability to drive is never easy to accept. But it may be more bearable if the person has time to adjust and plan alternative ways of travel. For example: public transport, taxis, or lifts from friends and relatives.

For [professional drivers](#), who must demonstrate a greater level of fitness to drive, it may involve reviewing work options for the future.

How DVLA makes a decision about drivers with Parkinson's



Once DVLA is told about a driver with Parkinson's we'll ask the driver for information about their condition. We'll also talk to the [healthcare professionals](#) involved in their diagnosis and treatment – like their GP, consultant or specialist nurse.

Information we usually ask for includes details about how long the individual has had Parkinson's, the level of deterioration and any changes in treatment. All this information is crucial for us to be able to make an informed decision on whether they can continue to drive safely.

Where possible we always try to offer a driving licence to a driver with a medical condition, but only if it's safe to do so. Our priority is to always maintain road safety for the driver and other road users.

For many drivers with medical conditions like Parkinson's, we might offer a short-term driving licence. This could be for one or three years. We tend to start going down this route when a driver's condition begins to deteriorate – a longer term licence may be offered earlier on, with subsequent licence periods getting shorter over time.

For more information about driving with Parkinson's

You can visit [Parkinson's UK](#)'s website.

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[Taxing your vehicle doesn't have to be taxing...](#)



Did you know it's [UK law](#) that all vehicles must be taxed or declared off-road?

If you've got one or more of the 39 million vehicles registered in the UK, it's quicker and easier than ever to keep on top of your responsibility to stay legal. Don't get caught out by not taxing your vehicle.

If you're not sure when your tax is due, you can check with us at any time using our [Check if a vehicle is taxed](#) service. You'll still get a paper Vehicle Tax Reminder (V11) in the post, reminding you when your tax is due – nothing's changed there.

Can't manage the cost all at once? You can pay by [Direct Debit](#).

It's never been easier to tax your vehicle [online](#) or by 'phone, on 0300 123 4321. Both these options are 24/7.

Or, if you prefer, you can tax at a [Post Office](#) that deals with vehicle tax.

So many different ways to tax your vehicle and stay within the law – there's really no excuse not to.

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[Buying a new car? Vehicle tax rates have changed](#)



Vehicle tax rates are changing for cars and some motorhomes first registered with DVLA from today. These changes do not affect cars registered before 1 April 2017 – but their rate of tax has increased today in line with the Retail Price Index.

If you're thinking about buying a new car or motorhome, read on because this will affect you.

For the last 12 months we've been working hard to make sure that you get the facts about the changes before you buy a new car.

We've been busy communicating this message on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) since last November and have updated GOV.UK information about the changes. Our press office has been issuing press releases to national, local and specialist publications.

In January, we launched a digital advertising campaign to new car buyers with simple messages driving people to GOV.UK to read the facts. As a result of all our combined digital communications, almost 700,000 people have visited the information.

We've been [blogging regularly](#), as well as putting messages on our printed literature. Over at our contact centre we have an automated telephone service to quickly answer your questions. This has been really effective so far with almost all of the calls relating to the changes using the service.

We've also been working closely with our stakeholders in the motor industry to help them get ready behind the scenes for the new rates. This includes updating the existing first registration service, creating a specially designed toolkit to use with their customers and running webinars in January and February.

So if you are thinking about buying a new car or motorhome from today, you're probably aware of the changes by now. But make sure you have a look at [new vehicle tax rates](#) information to see how it affects you.

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[New vehicle tax rules: how imported vehicles are affected](#)

[In our previous blog](#), we talked about the upcoming [vehicle tax changes](#) and how they'll affect motorhomes. We're now going to focus on imported vehicles.

As you may already know, the changes for cars and some motorhomes are:

- new standard tax rates for vehicles registered for the first time on or after 1 April 2017
- new first licence rates for new vehicles based on CO₂ emissions
- list price or notional price of the vehicle must be given to DVLA when the vehicle is first registered

Imported vehicles

For new cars and some motorhomes that are being imported into the UK (categories M1, M1SP and M1G on the [type approval certificate](#)), the changes will apply where there is a CO₂ emissions figure on the final build type approval certificate. Those vehicles without a CO₂ emissions figure on the final build type approval certificate will continue to be taxed as [private light goods \(PLG\) tax class](#), as they are now. When registering an imported vehicle, the list price or notional price of the vehicle must be provided.



New imported vehicles with a CO₂ emissions figure

For new vehicles imported with a CO₂ emissions figure, the first time the vehicle is taxed the rate will be based on the CO₂ emissions (as they are now). Take a look at [the current tax rates](#).

From the second time the vehicle is taxed, the vehicle will be charged at the standard rate or the standard rate plus an additional rate of £310, depending on the list price or notional price. To find out what the list price is for a vehicle, contact your dealer who will be able to help.

List price or notional price of £40,000 and under

When first registered, on or after 1 April 2017, these vehicles will be charged at the standard rate of £140 (£130 for alternative fuel vehicles, £0 for vehicles with zero emissions).

List price or notional price of over £40,000

These vehicles will be charged at the standard rate, plus the additional rate for five years, making a total of £450 (£440 for alternative fuel vehicles, £310 for vehicles with zero emissions). After five years, they will revert to the standard rate.

Used imported vehicles

If you're importing a used vehicle into the UK, the [new tax rate scheme](#) will apply if the vehicle was first registered outside the UK on or after 1 April 2017. Vehicles registered outside the UK before this date will continue to be taxed as they are now.

If the vehicle had a list price or notional price of over £40,000 when it was first registered outside the UK, the additional rate of £310 a year will be added to the standard rate. The additional rate is applicable for either:

- a five year period from the end of the first licence (if imported and registered for the first time in the UK)
- up to six years from the date of first registration outside the UK, when imported as a used vehicle but first registered on or after 1 April 2017

Check out [new vehicle tax rates from 1 April 2017](#) for more information.

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[**Looking to the future – DVLA's strategic and business plans**](#)



We've just published our [3-year strategic plan](#) and this year's [business plan](#), so it's a good time to take stock of what we've done – and what's to come.

Through everything we've achieved and the significant changes in the past year, our goal remains the same. We want to get the right drivers and vehicles taxed and on the road, as simply, safely and efficiently as possible. We are continuously improving our services, getting more services online and making them even easier for our customers to use.

Looking ahead, we're well on track with our preparations for the [new vehicle tax rate changes](#) coming in on 1 April for newly registered vehicles. We've been working really closely with the motor industry on this, as well as designing a [new online system](#) for motor manufacturers and dealers to use when they first register a vehicle.

Also on the horizon are more tech successes. We're rebuilding the [tachograph](#) and tachonet services onto an open system landscape, with the aim of getting a new tacho web service live in 2018-19. We're working on expanding the types of penalty payments that can be paid online around the same time too.

We're also using our digital expertise to help other government departments. [Office for Low Emission Vehicles \(OLEV\)](#) has chosen DVLA to develop a single web portal to support 3 grant schemes to encourage take-up of ultra low emission vehicles (ULEV). These include the Plug-in Car Grant Scheme and a new Workplace Charge Scheme.

Finally – picking up on the customer service theme – we're also looking to maintain the [Customer Service Excellence standard](#) and [Customer Contact Association Global standard 6](#) which, once again, we've retained this year. This is something we're very proud of, and we're aiming for reaccreditation for the coming year.

All of this means that I continue to feel really positive about where we're heading – lots to do for sure, but also plenty to look forward to.

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