

DRIVING ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Assessment under the NHS is free and your consultant, clinical nurse specialist or GP can refer you for an appointment.

Driving Mobility

<https://www.drivingmobility.org.uk>

There are networks of 17 independent organisations covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who offer professional, high quality information, advice and assessment to individuals who have a medical condition or are recovering from an accident or injury which may affect their ability to drive or access a motor vehicle.

You can attend whichever centre is the most convenient for you. The centre is based in Edinburgh but there is a mobile unit which visits Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee, Paisley, Irvine and Dumfries.

All centres offer advice and assessment to people who wish to begin or return to driving following an illness, injury or accident. Generally advice is confined to cars rather than motorcycles or heavy goods vehicles.

For further information upon these latter types of assessment contact the Scotland Centre in Edinburgh on:

Tel: **0131 537 9192** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)

Web: <https://www.smart.scot.nhs.uk/service/driving-assessment/>

Or call the Driving Mobility free phone number:

Tel: **0800 559 3636.**

Web: <https://www.drivingmobility.org.uk/contact/>

Although independent, the Centres are recognised by other mobility organisations including Motability and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

They offer advice and assessment to:

- Older people
- People with a medical condition that impacts upon their ability to make appropriate decisions with regards to safe driving.
- People with a disability who think they may need special modifications to a motor vehicle in order to be able to control it safely.
- Carers who need to transport individuals with restricted mobility in a motor vehicle.

What do they offer?

Assessment and advice:

- on adaptations to overcome physical problems with vehicle control with regard to your ability to drive safely.
- on wheelchair and scooter loading and transportation.
- on wheelchair selection (some Centres).
- regarding passenger/driver access to vehicles.
- on motorcycles or heavy goods vehicles (some Centres).

If the person's health condition only results in a physical limitation then a vehicle control trial or car adaptation assessment is usually appropriate. This includes an assessment for specific vehicle modifications which will assist with the control of the car.

Many thousands of people return to driving after becoming disabled through accidents or illness or are born with a disability and learn in a vehicle that has been adapted.

The type of adaptation you require will depend on your ability to control a vehicle and could vary from using a simple steering spinner, to a more complex solution such as a Drive From Wheelchair vehicle with hi tech controls.

Driving Adaptation Pictures



Steering Ball with Infra-Red controls.



Steering ball – quick release peg means steering ball can be removed by other drivers.



Tripod grip steering aid, also available with quick release peg.



Hand Brake adaptations.

Either way, this page should be used as a guide to what is available and if you are considering using adaptations Driving Mobility strongly advises you visit your local centre or call Information Services free on **0800 559 3636** so they may assess exactly what you need.

Also if you plan on driving an adapted vehicle, the DVLA and your insurance company will need to be notified.