

GOC response to DVLA call for evidence on driver licensing for people with medical conditions

Call for evidence: [Driver licensing for people with medical conditions: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/driver-licensing-for-people-with-medical-conditions)

Q1: “What are your views of the legal obligations or responsibilities placed on healthcare professionals?”

The General Optical Council (GOC) is the regulator for the optical professions in the UK. We currently register around 33,000 optometrists, dispensing opticians, student optometrists and dispensing opticians, and optical businesses. As is clear from the DVLA’s call for evidence document, optometrists have a part to play in assessing fitness to drive.

Our mission is to protect the public by upholding high standards in the optical professions. We therefore support any legal obligations or responsibilities placed on healthcare professionals to keep the public safe and recognise that optical professionals play a significant role with regard to vision and driving.

We have four core functions:

- setting standards for the performance and conduct of our registrants;
- approving qualifications leading to registration;
- maintaining a register of individuals who are fit to practise or train as optometrists or dispensing opticians, and bodies corporate who are fit to carry on a business as optometrists or dispensing opticians; and
- investigating and acting where registrants’ fitness to practise, or train, or ability to carry on a business may be impaired.

As part of our function of setting standards for the performance and conduct of registrants, we provide [Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians](#). We also support our registrants with additional guidance. Our [supplementary guidance on disclosing confidential information](#) includes information for our registrants on vision and safe driving, and outlines what to do if a patient’s vision means they may not be fit to drive, particularly if the patient is not willing or able to inform the DVLA themselves. The guidance refers to the DVLA’s guidance for healthcare professionals on assessing fitness to drive and we will ensure that we keep our guidance up to date to reflect any changes to this guidance or any other relevant guidance.