

General Optical Council Vision and Safe Driving Research

Key Findings

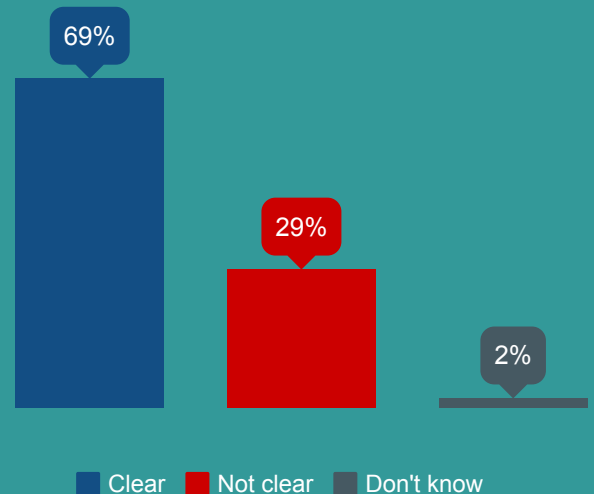
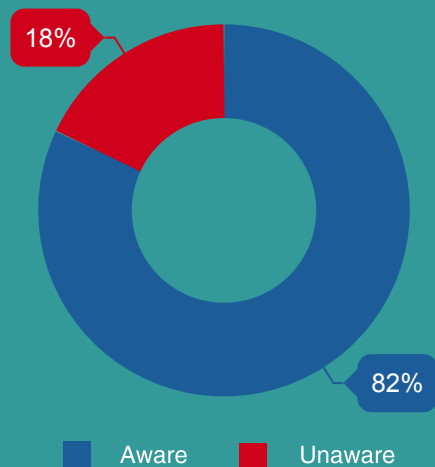
Views on the current system for assessing fitness to drive

83% of registrants thought that the current system to ensure that those who are not medically fit to drive are prevented from doing so **does not adequately protect the public.**

40% of registrants who did not think the current system adequately protects the public thought there should be **compulsory vision tests for all drivers at regular intervals.**

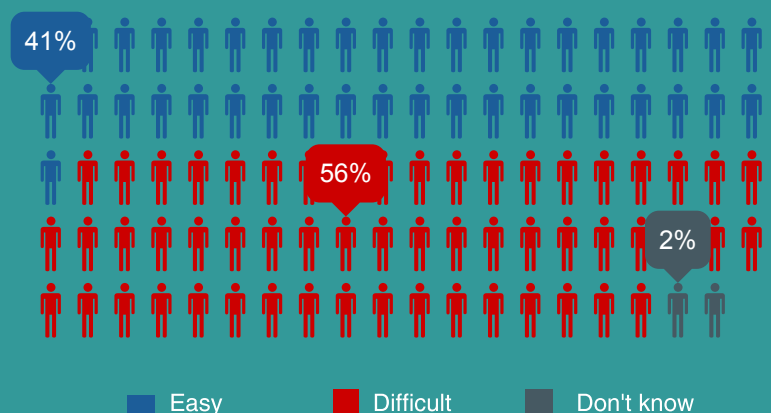
18% of registrants said they are **unaware of the DVLA's guidance** for healthcare professionals outlining the visual standards for all drivers.

69% of registrants thought that the current process for assessing whether a patient achieves the required visual standards **is clear.**



Patient confidentiality and public protection

56% of registrants said it was **difficult** to balance patient confidentiality with their duty to protect the public from harm.



Reporting patients to the DVLA/DVA

In cases where a patient does not meet the visual standards...

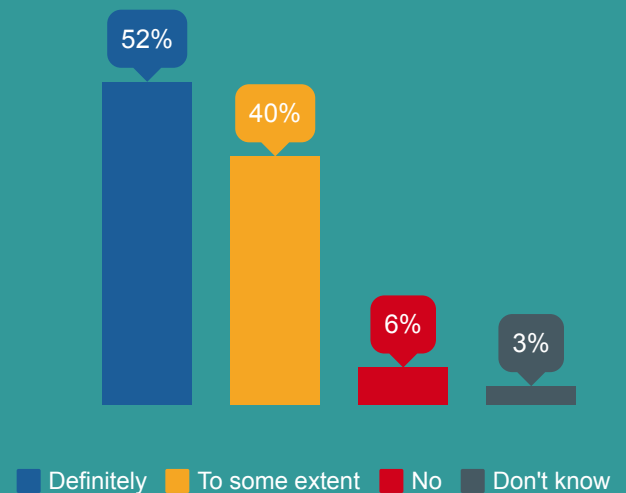
72% of registrants would **not feel comfortable informing the DVLA / DVA** if the patient could not or would not themselves.

*If we breach patient confidentiality we can be technically struck off. It can affect our livelihood.
(Optometrist, Cardiff)*

Improving public safety

52% of registrants said that **public safety would definitely be improved** if they were required to **notify the DVLA / DVA in all circumstances** where a patient does not meet the visual standards for driving

40% said public safety would be improved to some extent.



Concerns



40% of registrants had concerns about this approach and, of these, **89%** said there was a risk that people would be **deterred from attending sight tests**.

39% of members of the public said that this approach would deter them from attending a sight test, but **53%** said it would not.

For more information...

These results have been taken from the General Optical Council's research into vision and driving with both registrants and the general public, conducted by Enventure Research. A mixed quantitative and qualitative approach was taken in the form of online surveys and focus groups.

The registrant survey was completed online with an overall sample size of 3,934 registrants. The general public survey results are from the Public Perceptions Survey 2017, completed by an overall sample of 3,025 respondents.

DVLA refers to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency of Great Britain. The DVA refers to the Driver and Vehicle Agency in Northern Ireland.

To view the full report, please visit the News and Publications section of the GOC website at www.optical.org