

Medical changes for Vocational Drivers Q & A

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1. Is the scheme to help drivers who can't get a D4 still running?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In April 2020, temporary provisions were made for existing bus and lorry drivers aged 45 and over to allow them to renew their driving entitlement without a D4 medical report.• Drivers still need to make a declaration regarding their health. If a relevant medical condition is declared, it will be investigated and only if medical standards are met will the driver be issued with a one year licence.• The scheme is ongoing, but some drivers will be ineligible to apply in 2021. In consultation with the British Medical Association, DVLA has been focussing on putting in place arrangements to help ensure that D4 appointments can be made available to working lorry and bus drivers who need them.
2. What options are available to drivers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your lorry or bus entitlement expired before 1st Jan 2020 – you must renew as normal. A D4 is required.• Your lorry or bus entitlement expired 1st Jan 2020 – 31st Jan 2020 – you are eligible to renew without a D4 but only if you have been unable to get one.• The date on your licence shows your lorry or bus entitlement expired 1st Feb 2020 – 31st July 2020 – an automatic 11 month extension applies. You should begin the renewal process as normal, 56 days before the extension expires. You are eligible to renew without a D4 but only if you have been unable to get one.• The date on your licence shows your lorry or bus entitlement expired 1st Aug 2020 – 31st Dec 2020 –

	<p>an automatic 11 month extension applies. You should begin the renewal process as normal, 56 days before the extension expires. A D4 is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your lorry or bus entitlement expired/is expiring 1st Jan 2021 onwards - you are eligible to renew without a D4 but only if you have been unable to get one.
<p>3. Who won't be able to apply to the temporary scheme?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the temporary scheme was introduced it did not apply to drivers whose licence had expired before the 1 January 2020. It was also only available to existing drivers renewing a full lorry or bus entitlement at age 45 or over. It did not apply to provisional licence applicants or those wanting to renew entitlements to drive small lorries or minibuses on a car licence issued before 1997. These restrictions will continue. It is also the case that drivers can only be issued a single one year licence under the scheme. When this licence is due for renewal, a D4 must be submitted. Separate to the introduction of the scheme, it was announced on 31 July 2020 that an automatic 11 month extension to the validity of licences would apply to lorry and bus entitlements. This gave drivers another option to continue driving without having to submit a D4. We are not planning to allow drivers who rely on an automatic extension beginning after this date to subsequently apply to the scheme for a one year licence.
<p>4. Why won't you issue another one year licence or let those who have relied on the extension since 31 July 2020 go on the scheme?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road safety. Allowing these drivers onto the scheme would increase the time they have been able to continue driving without submitting a D4. We must reduce these risks as far as possible.
<p>5. So, if they can't get a D4, some drivers are not going to get licenced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for doctors issued by the British Medical Association and Royal College of GPs includes D4s

	<p>for essential workers as a work priority during the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, given continued pressures there is a need to manage demand on GPs to reduce the risk of some drivers not being able to get a licence. • Drivers and licence applicants have a part to play in this.
<p>6. How are drivers who are not eligible for the scheme going to get a D4 so they can get a licence?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are publishing guidance for drivers which has been developed in consultation with the British Medical Association. • This sets out the action that working drivers or those with an offer of employment as a driver need to take to help GPs and give them the best chance of meeting the demand for D4s. • The guidance details what priority different groups will get and options if they cannot get an appointment. • It will be key for drivers to act at the right time, act promptly, remain flexible and provide all information that is needed. They should also arrange to get the vision section of the D4 completed by an optician rather than the doctor.
<p>7. If I'm eligible for the temporary scheme, isn't it better that I just apply to DVLA for a one year licence rather than bother my GP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers should try and get a D4 appointment, so that any capacity GPs have to provide reports is used effectively. • Applying for a one year licence increases road safety risk and potentially stores up demand on GPs that may be equally difficult to meet in the future. Applying to the scheme should be exceptional and a last resort.
<p>8. My licence expired before the 1 August 2020 but I'm now relying on the automatic extension to drive. Will I be eligible for the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ask that you take action to try and get a D4 appointment up to 56 days before your automatic extension is due to expire. If you can't be offered

<p>temporary scheme when my extension runs out?</p>	<p>one and you meet all other criteria though, you can apply to the waiver scheme.</p>
<p>9. I'm not eligible for the temporary scheme, will my GP give me priority for a D4 appointment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are working or have an offer of employment as lorry or bus driver, GPs will look to offer you an appointment. However, you must act at the right time, promptly and be flexible. • Priorities recognise the importance of keeping all existing working drivers on the road but also the importance of providing D4s to new and returning drivers in order to support industry.
<p>10. My licence has been automatically extended. Will I get a renewal reminder to prompt me to try and get a D4?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will not get a renewal reminder to warn you when your extension is due to run out as you would have received one before the original expiry date. You should note when your 11 month extension will expire and act 56 days before this to arrange to get a D4. • If you no longer have your renewal reminder, you should order a D2 pack from GOV.UK
<p>11. My licence has been automatically extended but this doesn't run out for some time. Should I approach my GP anyway to sort out a D4 appointment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidance agreed with the British Medical Association is that you take action 56 days before your automatic extension is due to expire.
<p>12. My licence has been automatically extended. This doesn't run out until 1 July or after. Can I apply to the waiver scheme now as I won't have relied on the extension for the full 11 months?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your licence is valid and you should continue to drive using this licence for the time being. You are being given priority for a D4 appointment and should act to arrange an appointment 56 days before your extension runs out.

<p>13. My automatic extension doesn't run out until 1 July or after. Why won't I get on the temporary scheme and those whose extension expires earlier be able to?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing drivers to access the temporary scheme after relying on the automatic extension is a potential road safety risk that we must try to limit. • The application of the extension to lorry and bus licences wasn't announced until 31 July 2020. As a result, we expect a greater number of drivers to have decided to rely on the extension after this date. Their extension will not expire until 1 July or later so they are getting a fair warning that the scheme will not be available. • The numbers relying on the extension before this date are likely to be very small and so present a lower risk. Their extension will also expire sooner, so they will not have such advanced warning.
<p>14. The pandemic isn't over. Why are you looking to restrict access to the temporary scheme any further?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing licences without a D4 presents a road safety risk. It has always been the plan to keep the temporary scheme under review and close it as soon as circumstances allow. • The steps being taken are part of a process to do this in a managed way.
<p>15. Why do I need to get the vision section of the D4 completed by an optician?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is already the case that some GPs do not complete the vision section and leave it to the driver to approach an optician. However, doing this routinely in current circumstances may help GPs meet demand for their input to D4s.
<p>16. Doesn't getting the vision section of the D4 completed by an optician mean its going to cost drivers more?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees charged for completing D4s are a matter for opticians and doctors. • It is already the case that some GPs do not complete the vision section and leave it to the driver to approach an optician. Doing this routinely may involve additional costs for some drivers. However, in current circumstances it may help GPs meet demand for their input to D4s.