

FAQ on Brexit and Driving Licences

Q. I live in Ireland, hold a UK/NI driving licence and would like to be able to continue to drive here in Ireland after Brexit on my UK/NI driving licence?

A. The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on 31 October 2019. Anyone living in Ireland who holds a UK/NI driving licence must exchange it for an Irish driving licence, before the 31 October 2019, the withdrawal date of the UK from the EU. After this date, if you are living in Ireland your UK/NI driving licence will no longer be valid to drive here.

To avoid possible lengthy delays in exchanging a licence around 31 October, and not being able to drive, you are strongly urged to take steps immediately to exchange your licence. If the NDLS experience large volumes of UK/NI licence exchange applications around 31 October, there will be inevitable delays. If you act now you can avoid such an outcome.

Q. Will I be able to exchange my UK/NI licence after the UK/NI leaves the EU?

A. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is planning to put in place appropriate arrangements that will allow for the exchange of a UK driving licence for an Irish driving licence following Brexit. It's important to remember that in the immediate absence of such an arrangement post-Brexit, your UK licence will no longer be valid in Ireland. It must be exchanged for an Irish licence.

Q. Am I licensed to drive while my licence has been sent for exchange?

A. It is important to note that while an individual is exchanging their licence, if their licence is valid and in-date, they will continue to be licenced for the period of the exchange process. For instance where the individual is exchanging their UK/NI licence, the NDLS will provide them with a receipt to confirm they are indeed in the process of exchanging their licence. It is a requirement for individuals to have a licence with them at all times when driving. Enforcement is an operational matter for An Garda Síochána and they may, at their discretion, use the details of the NDLS receipt to verify the licence submitted to the NDLS for exchange.

Q. I live in the UK/NI and hold a UK/NI driving licence and would like to be able to drive a vehicle in Ireland from time to time on holidays after Brexit.

A. As a visitor there is no reason that you will not be able to drive in Ireland for holidays with your existing driving licence. This will apply regardless of whether there is a deal or no-deal Brexit. You should not be required to carry an International Driving Permit with you in order to drive here, just ensure to carry your UK/NI driving licence with you.

Q. I'm a UK/NI citizen, I live here in Ireland and I hold an Irish driving licence can I drive in the UK/NI from time to time?

A. An Irish driving licence will continue to be recognised in the UK/NI. An Irish driving licence is an EU licence and the UK/NI has indicated it will continue to recognise EU driving licences.

Q. I live in Ireland and drive trucks across Europe including the UK/NI as part of my job, I am the holder of an Irish driving licence with truck categories, can I drive on the Irish driving licence in UK/NI after Brexit?

A. An Irish driving licence is an EU driving licence and the UK/NI has indicated it will continue to recognise EU driving licences.

Q. As a UK/NI licence holder driver where can I find further information to prepare to drive in the EU after Brexit?

A. <https://www.gov.UK/NI/government/publications/prepare-to-drive-in-the-eu-after-brexite>

Q. I live in Northern Ireland and hold a UK/NI licence but travel to work daily in the Republic, can I continue to do this on my UK/NI licence?

A. Yes you can continue to make this journey on your UK/NI licence. International law covering driving licences provide for such journeys.

Please note the following when a UK/NI licence is being exchanged for an Irish Driving licence.

Medical Report Form

Where bus or truck licence categories are being exchanged from UK/NI licence to Irish licence a completed medical report form is required to be submitted with the application if the categories are to be exchanged. Please note if a driver indicates 'yes' to any of the medical questions on the driving licence application form a completed medical report form is required to be submitted with the application.

'Not for hire or reward' on minibus (D1 category).

On 'old style' UK/NI licences (paper licence, pink and green in colour) Code 1 (or Code 101 on plastic card licence), indicates "Not for hire or reward" and this applies to minibus category (D1 category) only. Where these Codes are against the D1 category on your licence, the category is not transferrable to an Irish licence. So if this applies to your licence, then when you receive your Irish licence it will not contain that licence category. However, if you are the holder of a bus category (D category) or minibus category (D1 category) without these Codes, these categories are transferrable to your Irish licence provided you submit a medical report with your application.

Category EC1 Licence with Code 107

The licence for light articulated truck (EC1 category) with Code 107 was granted in the UK/NI and is not transferrable when you exchange your UK/NI licence for an Irish one, as there is not an equivalent category in Ireland.

Category EC Licence with Code 102

The licence for articulated truck (EC category) with Code 102 was granted in the UK/NI and is not transferrable when you exchange your UK/NI licence for an Irish one, as there is not an equivalent category in Ireland.