

FAQ on NDLS Closure and Extension of Validity of Licences

Q1. My driving licence/learner permit is due for renewal soon, as NDLS offices closed how can I renew?

A1. The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of the driver licence/learner permit and further detail on this will be available in the coming days. While the extended validity date is not yet decided upon it is expected to be for a number of months.

Q2. Is it planned that a new licence will issue covering the extension period?

A2. No, the NDLS do not plan to issue a driver licence/learner permit card for the period of extension. It is planned that the extended period will be reflected on the electronic driver record the National Vehicle Driver File (NVDF).

Q3. I am currently serving a penalty point disqualification and my driving licence/learner permit is about to expire, will my penalty point disqualification count down for that period as it states you must have a current licence for a penalty point disqualification to count down?

A3. While the final details need to be worked out, it is anticipated that for any driver licence/learner permit whose validity date is extended a penalty point disqualification will continue to count down. It is important to note that you remain disqualified from driving until the period of disqualification has counted down.

Q4. I have penalty points on my record and my driving licence/learner permit is about to expire, will my penalty point disqualification count down for that period as it states you must have a current licence for a penalty points to count down?

A4. While the final details need to be worked out, it is anticipated that for any driver licence/learner permit, whose validity date is extended, and who have penalty points on their record that they will continue to count down.

Q5. I am currently serving a penalty point disqualification and unable to use public transport and while trying to abide by the social isolation rules I need to drive for urgent work/shopping etc. Can the disqualification be suspended for the period of the Covid-19 crisis?

A5. The licence disqualification is made under legal provisions covering penalty points the NDLS/RSA has no legal authority to change the outcome of a legally mandated process.

Q6. My driving licence expired nearly 10 years ago, and I could renew up to 10 years after expiry without the need to sit a driving test, however, the 10 years after expiry is up during the period the NDLS offices are closed. Will the extension period apply to me?

A6. You may be able to renew online at <https://ndls.rsa.ie>. You will need a MyGovID verified account. The extension period will not apply to you.

Q7. My learner permit expired nearly 5 years ago, and I could renew up to 5 years after expiry without the need to sit a driver theory test, however, the 5 years after expiry is up during the period the NDLS offices are closed. Will the extension period apply to me?

A7. You may be able to renew online at <https://ndls.rsa.ie> you will need a MyGovID verified account. The extension period will not apply to you.

Q8. I have a disqualification that is about to expire, however my driving licence had expired during the period of disqualification and now the NDLS offices are closed, how do I renew.

A8. You may be able to renew online at <https://ndls.rsa.ie> you will need a MyGovID verified account.

Q9. I am not currently able to renew online as I am not in one of the groups eligible to renew online. Is there any other facility available to me?

A9. The RSA continue to work on expanding the online facility to accommodate all driving licence and learner permit application types. We plan to have this in place in May 2020.

Q10. I made an application to NDLS prior to the offices closing, will my application be processed now that the offices are closed.

A10. Yes, the NDLS will continue to process all applications received.

Q11. My driving licence/learner permit is expiring and while I understand the Minister will extend the driving licence/learner permit for a period, will I be insured during that time?

A11. Insurance is outside of the remit of the NDLS/RSA therefore you should check with your insurance company.

Q12. If I am stopped by the gardai and show an expired driving licence/learner permit, can they charge me with an offence of driving without a driving licence?

A12. The Gardai are being advised of the decision of the Minister in relation to the extension to the period of validity of the driving licence/learner permit and therefore will make any decisions in that context. The driver record will reflect the change in expiry date.

Q13. Can I drive a truck for commercial use and travel across the EU with the expired licence?

A13. Ireland will be advising the EU Commission of the decision in relation to the extension of the validity of driver licences in the coming days. It's expected that other EU countries will recognise a driving licence whose period of validity has expired up to the end of the extension period.

Q14. I am a diplomat and my Irish driving licence is about to expire, what can I do?

A14. The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of the driver

licence and further detail on this will be available in the coming days. While the extended validity date is not yet decided upon it is expected to be for a number of months.

Q15. If I apply for my licence online before 31 July 2020, will I be issued with a licence without the need to submit a medical report when the 'grace' period expires?

A15. In light of the need to facilitate social distancing and the expected additional burdens on medical services from Covid-19, the requirement for those over 70 (under certain circumstance) to provide a medical report is removed until 31 July 2020. This means that until 31 July 2020, persons of 70 years of age or over can apply for, and renew, their driving licence without the need to submit a medical report. This is only on the basis that they do not have an identified or specified illness listed on the application form.

The driving licence will be issued for a period of 3 years. A licence can only be issued for a period of 1 year where they have declared a medical condition. This condition will apply until 31 July 2020. Currently, people aged 70 and over cannot apply online but the online facility will be available to everyone in May 2020.

Refer to Q1 above as you may not need to renew your driving licence now.

Q16. Can I renew my driving licence/learner permit without attending a NDLS centre?

A16. Yes. If you are renewing a licence or permit without any other change in your personal details, you are under 70 years and you do not have a truck or bus category on your driving licence, you can apply online at www.ndls.ie The online facility will be available to all drivers in May 2020.

Q17. Will I need to submit a medical report after 31 July 2020 if I have declared I do not have a medical condition on my application, and I am age 70 and over?

A17. Yes, where you declare you do not have a medical condition on the application form and you are aged 70 and over you will need to provide a medical report after 31 July 2020.

Q18. I passed a driver theory test nearly 2 years ago but did not make an application yet for a learner permit. It states on the driver theory test cert that it is valid for 2 years. However, the 2 year period expires now and the NDLS centre is closed so that I cannot make an application for a learner permit. What can I do?

A18. The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of the cert and further detail on this will be available in the coming days. While the extended validity date is not yet decided upon it is expected to be for a number of months, where the cert expired on or after 1 March 2020 and on or before 31 July 2020.

Q19. I passed a driving test nearly 2 years ago but did not make an application yet for a driving licence. It states on the driving test cert of competency that it is valid for 2 years. However, the 2 year period expires now and the NDLS centre is closed so that I cannot make an application for a driving licence. What can I do?

A19. The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of the cert and further detail on this will be available in the coming days. While the extended validity date is not yet decided upon it is expected to be for a number of months, where the cert expired on or after 1 March 2020 and on or before 31 July 2020.

Q20. I completed IBT progressive access but did not make an application yet for a driving licence to add the category. It states on the IBT cert that it is valid for 2 years. However, the 2 year period expires now and the NDLS centre is closed so that I cannot make an application to add the category to the driving licence. What can I do?

A20. The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of the cert and further detail on this will be available in the coming days. While the extended validity date is not yet decided upon it is expected to be for a number of months, where the cert expired on or after 1 March 2020 and on or before 31 July 2020.

Q21. My driving licence is valid for another 5 years, however my truck and bus categories are expiring, will the expiry date of those be extended.

A21. The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport announced on Saturday 28 March 2020 that he would be introducing measures that will extend the period of validity of driving licences and learner permits and further detail on this will be available in the coming days.

Q22. My driving licence/learner permit expired before 1 March 2020 and now the NDLS offices are closed, how do I renew.

A22. You may be able to renew online at <https://ndls.rsa.ie> If you are not currently eligible to renew online, the online facility will be available to everyone in May 2020. You will need a verified MyGovID, for more information on setting up a verified MyGovID see www.mygovid.ie