



Driving

brainstrust information sheet

Know Hows are published by *brainstrust* to help people living with a brain tumour to understand current topics. They are produced with input from relevant scientific and clinical experts, and are written in a way that should help you to understand often complicated topics.

If you have an idea for a Know How, then please let us know.

If you have any queries, don't forget you can talk to one of our support specialists on **01983 292 405** or email **hello@brainstrust.org.uk**.

Why do we need this Know How?

Guidance around driving when living with a brain tumour is a topic that we are regularly asked about and features heavily on many online forums. This Know How will provide you with the information that you need to know regarding the law around driving with a medical condition, the process when involving the DVLA and your medical team, and organisations that may be able to help.

When diagnosed with a brain tumour, you must inform the DVLA, as it may affect your driving. This is not to say that you will have to give up your driving licence immediately, but you could be fined if you do not inform them of a condition that can affect your ability to drive.

We know that having to give up your driving licence has a massive impact on independence and emotional wellbeing. It is another challenge that you are faced with when living with a brain tumour diagnosis. For some people it can also affect their ability to continue doing a job that may rely entirely or very heavily on driving. When dealing with this, the priority should be the safety of yourself and others around you.

If you ignore the advice of your medical team and the DVLA, there is also the risk of a heavy fine or prosecution.

Do I need to tell the DVLA about my brain tumour?

When you are diagnosed with a medical condition that could affect your ability to drive, which includes a brain tumour, you must inform the DVLA. To do this, you need to complete a B1 form if you have a car or motorcycle licence, or a B1V form if you have a bus, coach or lorry driving licence. These forms can be found here: www.gov.uk/brain-tumour-and-driving.

Do I need to tell my insurance company?

It is advisable to inform your insurance company of any medical conditions that may affect your ability to drive, especially if you are deemed to still be able to drive under a Section 88. The premium may be raised once you start driving again. If you continue driving when you have been advised not to, your car insurance policy will be void.

Do I need to stop driving?

Once you have informed the DVLA of your medical condition, it will then make an assessment as to whether you are still able to drive in the long term.

It is at this stage that it may consult your clinical team (GP or consultant). You will be asked to include these details on the B1 or B1V form.

You should speak to your clinical team about whether it feels that you are still able to drive prior to being assessed by the DVLA.

If your team is happy for you to continue driving whilst your application is being considered by the DVLA, then you will be able to continue driving under Section 88 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The decision regarding whether you are allowed to drive under Section 88 is down to yourself and your doctor, not the DVLA.

In order to drive under Section 88, you must meet a certain set of criteria. Full details of these criteria and information about Section 88 can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/inf1886-can-i-drive-while-my-application-is-with-dvla.

There is also an option for you to voluntarily surrender your driving licence, if, for instance, you do not feel well enough to continue driving. To do this, you will need to fill out a form and send it to the DVLA. This can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-of-voluntary-surrender.

If you decide to voluntarily surrender your driving licence, you can reapply for it provided you have been deemed medically fit to drive by your medical team, and then the DVLA will consider your application.

How long will it be before I can drive again?

The answer to this question depends on individual circumstances, such as tumour type, location and what treatment you have had.

You can view a condensed version of the DVLA guidelines here: <http://bit.ly/drivingtable>.

Your consultant will make an assessment as to whether you can drive again, which should be in line with the guidelines set out by the DVLA. The assessment will then be sent to the DVLA, who will provide you with a decision.

Getting back to driving

If you are concerned about getting back to driving after a period of not driving, Driving Mobility is an organisation that can help with driving assessments and driving tuition, as well as suggesting any adaptations that may need to be made to your vehicle.

You can self-refer, or referrals can be made from the DVLA or Health Professionals.

www.drivingmobility.org.uk

Options for when you can't drive

If you no longer hold a valid driving licence due to a medical condition, have been registered disabled or are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to free travel in your area. This can be in the form of a bus pass, train pass, or in some instances, both.

Applications for this have to be made through your local council, who will advise what concession is available in your area.

You can find more information and be directed to the correct council's website here:

www.gov.uk/apply-for-disabled-bus-pass

Ask yourself

- What specifically am I struggling with?
- If I have to stop driving, what impact will this have?
- How can I overcome the challenges that not driving will bring?
- Who is in my team that can help with any changes I need to make to my lifestyle?
- What are my options?
- Who do I need to speak to for help and advice?

Bottom line?

If you are diagnosed with a brain tumour, then you will need to notify the DVLA. To not do so could endanger lives and invalidate your insurance.

Contact

Talk to *brainstrust*. We can help. You can call, write, type, text. Email for help and support: **hello@brainstrust.org.uk**
Telephone: **01983 292 405**.

Other helpful links

brainstrust.org.uk/travelling

www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/brain-tumours/living-with/driving

www.gov.uk/brain-tumour-and-driving

References

<https://www.gocompare.com/health-insurance/cancer-treatment-and-insurance/>

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Production of *brainstrust*'s information is supported by the Anna Horrell fund. Anna, wife and mum, tragically passed away in August 2017 after a valiant fight against a glioblastoma. Throughout her life and her illness, she was an inspiration to us all, fighting bravely and cheerfully in the face of adversity. She was the beating heart of our family, and her loss left a hole in our lives that can never be replaced. In her incredible memory, we are passionate about helping others diagnosed with a brain tumour to navigate this most difficult of journeys.

Mike, Tom, Rebecca, Charlie & Sophie