



Scottish Police Federation

5 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF

JCC Circular 16 of 2015

Ref: CS/LS

21 April 2015

Dear Colleague

Roads Policing Driver Authorisation Policy – Consultation

I refer to the above and attach herewith the consultation paper for your perusal.

Please submit any comments/observations you may have to Lesley.stevenson@spf.org.uk by **Tuesday 28th April 2015**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calum Steele'.

Calum Steele
General Secretary

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**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

**ROAD POLICING
DRIVING AUTHORISATION POLICY**

Owning Department:	Road Policing
Author / Reviewer:	Insp Simon Bradshaw
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EIA Completed:	
ECHR compliant:	
Data Protection compliant:	
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Records Management compliant:	

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Background

The legacy Forces had differing policies regarding the driving of Road Policing vehicles by those officers not qualified to Advanced standard and a consistent national policy is essential.

The policy outlined below has been devised through the Road Policing Strategy, Policy and Performance Framework and in conjunction with the Road Policing Division at the Scottish Police College.

AUTHORISATION TO DRIVE ROAD POLICING VEHICLES BY NON-ADVANCED DRIVERS

This policy will apply to those officers newly transferred to Road Policing and those on a temporary secondment to the Department, who have successfully completed the Standard & ERT Driving Course.

Officers who are trained to Basic level only will NOT be granted authorisation.

OFFICERS TRANSFERRED TO ROAD POLICING

- Officers transferring to Road Policing will require to have successfully passed the Standard & ERT Driving Course. Prior to being granted authorisation to drive Road Policing vehicles, an officer will also require to pass an advanced driver medical examination and an assessment drive.
- In general officers transferring to Road Policing will immediately attend the RPO Course at the Scottish Police College. The course will include a driving assessment element (TBC) undertaken by SPC staff (those unable to attend the RPO course immediately will undertake this assessment locally).
- Upon successful completion of the assessed driving element the officer will be deemed authorised to drive road policing vehicles, including under Response conditions, subject to the caveats below. Where authorisation is not granted following assessment then a development plan may be considered, with a view to progressing the officer to successful assessment.
- A newly transferred & assessed driver will be accompanied, where possible, by an Advanced driver. However, an assessed driver will be permitted to drive unaccompanied and under Response conditions, when this is operationally necessary.
- When **accompanied** by an Advanced driver an assessed driver will not be subject to any speed restrictions. When **unaccompanied** an assessed driver will, subject to a dynamic risk assessment, be restricted to speed limits plus 20mph.
- Assessed drivers, whether accompanied or not, will not undertake pursuit driving beyond the Initial Phase.
- Assessed drivers may undertake ambulance escorts only when accompanied by an Advanced driver and after having gained sufficient driving experience.

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- Assessed drivers may undertake abnormal load escorts unaccompanied, after having gained sufficient experience in the company of an Advanced driver.
- Assessed drivers will be provided with a detailed briefing and a guidance document from the appropriate supervisor, which they will be required to sign to acknowledge the content. They will at all times adhere to the advice and directions given by an accompanying Advanced driver.
- The period of authorisation will not be unlimited and for those transferred to Road Policing authorisation will be granted on the understanding that the officer concerned attends the Advance Driving Course at the earliest opportunity.

OFFICERS SECONDED TO ROAD POLICING

- Officers on secondment to Road Policing will require to have successfully passed the Standard & ERT Driving Course. Prior to being granted authorisation to drive Road Policing vehicles, an officer will also require to pass an advanced driver medical examination and an assessment drive.
- In general, officers seconded to Road Policing for a period of more than 4 weeks will undergo a driving assessment locally. The decision to assess and grant authorisation to a seconded officer will be taken by the local Inspector and be based on the local operational need or requirement for additional drivers.
- Officers seconded to Road Policing for a period of less than 4 weeks will not be permitted to drive.
- Upon successful completion of the assessed driving element the officer will be deemed authorised to drive road policing vehicles, subject to the caveats below. Where authorisation is not granted following assessment, then the officer will not be permitted to drive.
- A seconded & assessed driver will be accompanied at all times by an Advanced driver and will not be subject to any speed restrictions. Any decision to exceed the speed limit must be subject to dynamic risk assessment.
- A seconded driver will not be permitted to drive unaccompanied.
- A seconded driver will not undertake pursuit driving beyond the Initial Phase or any form of escort driving.
- Assessed drivers will be provided with a detailed briefing and a guidance document from the appropriate supervisor, which they will be required to sign to acknowledge the content. They will at all times adhere to the advice and directions given by an accompanying Advanced driver.
- The period of authorisation will not be unlimited and, in respect of those on secondment, it will last only for the period of the secondment.

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Assessment Drives

The assessment drive will be undertaken in a Road Policing vehicle and the duration and content will reflect a Road Safety Act assessment drive. It will examine the driver's ability and competence to Standard level and will include an element of Response driving.

Those officers transferring to Road Policing will undertake their RPO Course at SPC immediately, during which their driving will be assessed by an SPC Instructor. The course report will contain details on the outcome of the assessment drive and recommendations as to the officer's suitability for authorisation or otherwise.

Where operationally necessary officers temporarily seconded to Road Policing, for a period of more than 4 weeks, will undergo a driving assessment with a local police driving instructor. Details on the outcome of the assessment drive and recommendations as to the officer's suitability for authorisation or otherwise will be recorded in the officer's progress booklet.

Where, following a driving assessment, an officer is deemed not deemed suitable for authorisation then this will not preclude them continuing in the department. Any action required to develop the individual's driving skills will be determined at that time.

Briefing & Risk Assessments

Following assessment, and prior to being granted authorisation, officers will be briefed about their responsibilities as a driver by the appropriate local Inspector/supervisor and provided with a detailed guidance document confirming this. They will be required to sign the document to acknowledge its content.

The guidance document will be contained within the officer's progress booklet and signed by both the officer and Inspector/supervisor.

Continual Assessment

All officers transferred or seconded to the department will have their progress and development monitored and this will include their driving. Any issues or concerns highlighted by the officer concerned or their colleagues will be addressed as part of this process.