

Your Legal Questions

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Q I will turn 70 next year and understand that my driving licence will expire and that I will have to renew it. What is the procedure?

A You will receive from the DVLA, 90 days before your 70th birthday, a form entitled 'application for renewal of a driving licence'. The procedure differs slightly depending upon whether you have an old style paper driving licence or a photocard licence.

You will need to:

- Complete the form
- Enclose original documentation confirming your identity
- Send your application and documents to DVLA, Swansea SA99 1AA or you can use the premium checking service at selected Post Office branches or DVLA local offices
- Return your photocard driving licence and counterpart

You should receive with your letter from the DVLA a guide "how to fill in your renewal form". When completing the form you will be asked questions regarding your eyesight, hearing and any recent medical conditions. It is very important that all medical conditions are declared because if you are involved in an accident and it is found that your health condition was a contributing factor, you may be prosecuted and your insurance may not be valid.

Once your licence has been renewed it will be valid for the next three years but you are still obliged to notify the DVLA about medical conditions that arise during that period.

If you hold a valid licence but decide that you wish to give up driving I would suggest that you return the Licence to the DVLA with a covering letter explaining your decision and request that they cancel the licence. This should prevent any possible misuse and reduce the risks of identity fraud.