

# **Bobby Dunphy School of Motoring**

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## **Observations on proposed Graduated Driver Licencing**

We wish to put forward the following observations in relation to the proposed graduated system of driver training.

There is nothing in your discussion document that we disagree with per se but for us, a graduated licencing system would begin in the schools, continue with driving lessons and on to supervised practice culminating in pre-test lessons and the driving test.

We believe that peer pressure is a major factor in driver behaviour. It is also, though very difficult to get this across to a young person and would be best approached in the classroom. Similarly, items such as attitude, centrifugal forces, accelerating and braking can best be explained in classrooms and demonstrated in the driving lessons. In other words a great deal of preparatory work could be done in schools which would make the later driving lessons more easily understood.

Since everybody learns at their own pace, setting a target of a precise number of hours tuition might be counter productive. A better system would be to identify a set of core competencies, which would have to be signed off by an A D I as they are achieved. This would also allow a smooth transfer of students from one instructor to another.

Supervised driving would require a level of competency and knowledge on the part of the supervisor. This in part could be addressed by the use of a logged programme of tasks. We suspect however that training in the use and marking of the log would be necessary.

The current driving test is too structured, with the result that many instructors are pre

test specialists as opposed to driving educators and all that that entails. We believe that the driving test should contain an assessment by the examiner that would include the current marking sheet and an overview. Some of the observations the examiner might include would be, for example:-

Did the candidate match their speed to what was happening around them? Yes / No

Did the candidate's position help other road users to anticipate? Yes / No

Did the candidate avoid driving in other vehicle's blind spots? Yes / No

Did the candidate perform actions in good time, not rushed or delayed? Yes / No

The decision to award a pass would be based on a combination of the marking sheet and positive responses to the above.