



**Northern
Constabulary**
PROTECTING PEOPLE. PROMOTING PROGRESS.

CHECK IT OUT...



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Young People and the Police

Each person in the United Kingdom has a moral responsibility to be a good citizen and abide by the laws of the land.

Young people and the police have to work together to make our communities a safer place for everyone to live. To work together we have to respect each other.

The police have certain powers, which they may use to investigate offences and to keep the peace.

If you treat the police with respect then they will return that respect. The police have a duty to carry out and with your assistance this will be completed easier and to everyone's benefit.

What happens if the police stop me on the street?

The police may stop you on the street for a number of reasons. They may stop you for a general chat during their patrols. All beat officers may stop and speak to you and take an interest in what you have to say.

If the police have "reasonable grounds" to suspect that you have committed or witnessed a crime/offence then they may stop you in the street. They may require you to give your name and address, which you must give. If you are a suspect you may have to wait with the officer until your name and address has been checked.

If you are not told why you are being stopped then ask the police officer, politely. The police officer will quite happily tell you the reasons why you are being stopped.

If you have been stopped and you are under 16 years of age, it is important that you inform the police officer of this as there are different procedures for under 16 years.

What happens if the police want me to go to the police station?

If the police want you to go to the police station then your attendance will fall into one of three categories.

1. Voluntary attendance - On this occasion you are asked to attend the police station on a voluntary basis. On arriving at the police station a form will be completed showing that you have attended at your own free will and you may sign the form to this effect. Your attendance is voluntary and you will be free to leave at any time unless you are arrested or detained (see below).

2. Detention - if the police have reasonable grounds to suspect that you have committed a crime or offence punishable by imprisonment, you can be detained for up to 6 hours for further enquiries to be carried out. On arrival at the police station forms have to be completed and your rights will be explained to you. Your rights include having a solicitor and one other person informed of your detention. If you do not have a solicitor but you wish one informed then the duty solicitor will be informed for you. If you are under 16 years of age the police will automatically inform your parents/guardian (unless they suspect your parents/guardians are involved in the offence which you are detained for).



Doing a category 2

While being detained you may be searched. You may also have your photograph, fingerprints and palm prints taken. The police may also apply for a warrant to take blood, urine or carry out an intimate body search. A doctor will attend to carry out these examinations.

Any records of fingerprints etc., will be destroyed immediately, following a decision not to proceed or if at a later date you are found not guilty.

Sometime within the detention period after the enquiries have been completed you will either be released from detention or cautioned and charged with the offence and arrested.

3. Arrest - The police can arrest you and take you to a police station if they have sufficient evidence that you have committed a crime or offence. On arrival at the police station there are forms to be completed, the forms are in relation to your rights to have a solicitor and one other person informed that you have been arrested. If you are under 16 years of age the police will automatically inform your parents/guardians that you have been arrested (unless they suspect your parents/guardians are involved in the offence which you are arrested for). You may be held in custody until the next lawful day on which a court would sit (Monday - Friday). If you are arrested on a Friday you may be kept in custody until Monday morning.

Can the police search me?

The police have powers to search you when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that you are in possession of certain items, e.g. drugs, offensive weapons or stolen property. The search may take place in the street outwith the view of the public. This search will be confined to outer clothing, eg. pockets etc. in the street. The police will try to carry out the search in as private a place as they can (normally the nearest police station). If you are arrested or detained you will be searched. An officer of the same sex will search you and a male officer is not allowed to search a female, vice versa.

Can the police search my home?

The police have the authority to search your home for a number of different reasons;

1. At your invitation - The police may search your house at your invitation and if you have nothing to hide why not invite them to search your house.
2. By Warrant - The police may apply to the courts or to Justices of the Peace to search your house for items such as drugs/firearms/stolen property. If the police do have a warrant to search your house they will let you view it and read it.
3. As a matter of urgency - If in the interests of justice in more serious cases the police may be empowered to search your house without a warrant.

If the police have a warrant and you refuse them entry they are empowered to break into your house if required.

Although there is no crime of refusing entry when the police have a warrant you will probably find that you will be charged with Obstruction.

How can I make a complaint?

If you wish to make a complaint to the police you can either telephone, go to a police station, or make a complaint to an officer on his patrols. If you are under 16 years of age, take a parent or someone over 16 with you. The police prefer to note complaints and statements from people under 16 when an older person is present.



Under 16's can make a complaint with an older person present

Young People and Drugs

Many young people think that taking drugs is the cool thing to do. In truth drugs are very dangerous and if you ask, many drug addicts will tell you that they regret ever getting involved with drugs.

Will I be fined for having a “joint” in my possession?

Cannabis is an illegal drug and possession of it is an offence as is possession of any other illegal drug. Cannabis is currently a Class B illegal drug, but it is likely to become Class C in the near future.

If I have a drug conviction will it affect me in later life?

Having a drug conviction can prevent you gaining employment in a large number of careers. Nowadays employers can request your previous convictions. If you were an employer who would you employ?

Having a drug conviction can also stop you entering countries such as America, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries.

Can the police search me for drugs?

The police have powers to search you or a vehicle you are in, when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that you are in possession of illegal drugs. The search of outer clothing may take place in the street outwith the view of the public. You may be taken to a police station where a more thorough search may take place.

Can the police arrest me?

The police may arrest you if you have illegal drugs in your possession and they believe you may run away, or you refuse to give your name or address or are suspected of giving a false name and address.

Can I be charged with being a dealer if I give an ecstasy tablet to my friend?

Giving or selling an ecstasy tablet, or any other controlled drug, to your friend is classed as supplying an illegal drug, which carries a stiffer penalty. Even though you made no gain from giving the tablet you are still supplying drugs.

Can I be addicted to drugs even if I only try it once?

Some drugs are highly addictive and even after one "try" you can become addicted.

Surely I'm alright if I just have a smoke of dope?

There is no such thing as a harmless drug. All drugs, including dope have risks. Many of the people interviewed who are addicted to harder drugs have stated that they started off smoking Cannabis.



There is no problem with legal "joints"

What should I do if offered drugs?

You have a simple choice - to take it **or** not - **think** of the consequences.

The Police would recommend that you

1. Don't take the drug.
2. Plan what you would say and do, before it happens (it may never happen depending on the company you keep).
3. Encourage any friend that may be with you not to take the drug.
4. Make sure you're not at risk and if need be, go home or to some other safe place.
5. Tell someone responsible about what happened. It's up to you!



It's your choice... but smarties don't take drugs

Do most young people take drugs?

There are a lot of young people who do take drugs such as Ecstasy and Cannabis BUT MOST DON'T. Surveys that have been carried out by independent groups have shown this. Even for those who tried a drug many decide not to use one again.

What are the reasons why young people don't take drugs?

There can be many reasons such as:

- They have better things to do and other interests such as listening to music, playing sport etc.
- They don't trust the people who offer drugs.
- They don't know what's in the drug.
- They know the health risk.
- They don't want the consequences of breaking the law.
- It's a waste of money

Solvents

Is it against the law to take solvents?

Depending on the circumstances it can be an offence. It is however extremely dangerous to take solvents whether they be gases, glue or aerosol. THEY CAN KILL!

What are the penalties for drug related offences?

This table shows how drugs are grouped according to the law. Class A drugs are viewed as having most potential to harm and therefore carry the heaviest penalties.

MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971	CLASS A DRUGS (e.g. Acid, Trips Coke, Smack, E's, Mushies: prepared)	CLASS B DRUGS (e.g. Hash, Speed, Barbs)	CLASS C DRUGS (e.g. Rohypnol, Supply of Roids and Mazzies, GHB)
Possession	7 years prison and unlimited fine	5 years imprisonment and unlimited fine	Generally no offence but may be 2 years imprisonment and fine if controlled drugs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possession with intent to supply• Supply• Production	Life imprisonment and unlimited fine	14 years imprisonment and unlimited fine	5 years imprisonment and unlimited fine

Young People and Alcohol

In the Highlands and Islands alcohol is the most abused substance. Most young people in the area have at some point in their life tried alcohol and in a recent survey nearly all primary 7 children had tried alcohol, ie. taken a sip, not necessarily drank a whole alcoholic drink. A large number of crimes/offences committed in the Highlands and Islands are committed when the person is under the influence of alcohol.

How old can I be before I can legally buy alcohol?

16 or 17 year olds can buy (or be bought) beer or cider as an accompaniment to a meal, but not in a bar (i.e. only in an area specifically set-aside for meals). This is the only time when you can legally buy alcohol.

18 year olds can legally buy alcohol from an off licence, or a pub. Although some clubs have an age limit of 21 years.

How old should I be before I can go into a pub?

A young person under 14 cannot go into the bar of a pub unless the pub has a "children's certificate".



Under 14's shouldn't be in the bar of an uncertificated pub

If it does not have one, they can only go into parts of licensed premises where alcohol is EITHER sold but not DRUNK (e.g. an off-license or a sales point away from the pub), OR drunk but not sold (e.g. a garden or family room).

14 or 15 year olds can go into a pub, but cannot drink alcohol, they must be accompanied by an adult.

Can I get someone over 18 to buy alcohol for me?

It is against the law for anyone over 18 years to buy alcohol for you if you are under 18 years. This refers to licensed premises and off-sales.

Can I have alcohol in my possession in a public place, even if I've taken it from my own house?

If a constable suspects that you are under 18 years of age in a public place with alcohol on your possession, even if you have taken the alcohol from your own house, then he will require you to give the alcohol to him and he will dispose of it in such a manner as he considers appropriate. If you are over 18 years of age in a public place with alcohol and the constable reasonably suspects that you intend to supply the alcohol to a person under 18 years of age or have supplied alcohol to a person under 18 years for consumption in a public place, the constable will require you to surrender the alcohol so it may be disposed off as he feels appropriate.

What happens if I am found drunk in a public place?

If you are over 16 years of age and are incapable of looking after yourself, the police may take you into custody for your own protection, you may thereafter be reported to the procurator fiscal for being drunk and incapable.

If you are under 16 years of age and are incapable of looking after yourself you will be taken home if your address is known. If your address is not known or cannot be ascertained you will be taken to the nearest police station, or place of safety and once your parents/guardians are found they will be requested to attend at the police station to uplift you. On some occasions the police may put a report to the Children's Panel/Social Work Department regarding your drunkenness.

At what age can I buy cigarettes from a shop?

You can buy cigarettes from a shop at 16 years of age or over. However, if you're under 16 years and a police officer sees you smoking or with cigarettes in your possession in the street, the cigarettes will be confiscated and destroyed.



If you're seen smoking under 16 the cigarettes will be confiscated

Young People and Personal Safety

The police want all young people to be able to live in the Highlands and Islands without fear of becoming victims. Young people have to be aware of the situations that they are in or could be in, has a bearing on their personal safety. Young peoples personal safety is paramount in the plans of the police.

I am being bullied at school; can the police help me?

The police take bullying very seriously and are very keen to stamp it out in the Highland and Islands. If you are being bullied at school, you should tell your parents, teachers, youth worker or some other support i.e. Childline, immediately. Teachers also view bullying very seriously and will take all steps possible to stop it. The person who is bullying you will probably be committing a crime/offence. The police will be able to assist you if you have any problems.

Bullies are cowards and deep down will be terrified if they think the police will become involved.

I have been touched in places which I don't like, what can I do?

If someone touches you and you don't want him or her to, then tell someone about it, a parent, teacher, youth worker, etc. It may be against the law and the police will treat it seriously. This can happen to boys as well as girls.

I am a 16 year old and want to have sex with my 15 year old girlfriend/boyfriend?

It is against the law to have sex with someone who is under 16 years of age. If you are a boy over 16 years of age and have sex with a girl who is under 12 years of age, you may be charged with rape.

The legal age for consensual sex between two males is 18.

I am a female and wish advice about personal safety while I am out socially?

Everyone has to remember that if they drink too much alcohol, they may find themselves in a situation that they would rather not be in. Therefore everyone should be aware of the quantity of alcohol they are drinking.

It is also unwise to leave drinks unattended. There are drugs being used that if put into someone's drink, it is tasteless but can render the drinker incapable of making proper judgements, which in turn can place you in vulnerable or dangerous situations.

Nowadays it is as common for males to find themselves in unwanted situations, as it is females.

When going out socially it is very important to know how you are getting home, so organise transport before you go out and if you happen to be staying out overnight, tell someone where you will be staying.

I want to meet someone who I've spoken to on the internet, in a chat room, is this ok?

Most people have at some point had access to the Internet and a few have entered chat rooms, there is a warning given when you first enter these sites not to divulge too much, and certainly not personal information. We recommend that you should not, under any circumstances physically meet anyone who you have met in a chat room - you don't know who you are meeting! However if you do go to meet someone, meet in a public place, and either tell someone, or get a friend to go with you.



You meet all kinds on the internet

Young People and Vehicles

Young people have a fascination with motor vehicles and cannot wait to become mobile. Driving is exciting, however, it is fraught with danger. Every day we drive is a learning experience and that is the same for every driver no matter what their age or ability. When you do start driving you have to remember that you are inexperienced and you do have limitations. A large number of young people become victims of road accidents due to inexperience.

What age can I drive?

You are allowed to drive any type of vehicle at any age on private property as long as you have permission from the owner of the property.

- At 16 years of age you may drive an invalid carriage or a moped on a public road, if you have a provisional licence for this class of vehicle.
- At 17 years of age you may drive a motor bicycle, tractor, small vehicle which carries less than 8 passengers including the driver (not exceeding 3 1/2 tonnes).
- At 18 years of age you can drive a Heavy Goods Vehicle (not exceeding 7 1/2 tonnes), an ambulance, a Large Goods Vehicle on a driving training scheme and a public service vehicle provided there are no passengers.
- Over 21 years of age you can drive any vehicle.

What documents do I need to drive legally on a road?

To drive legally on a road you are required by law to have a driving licence for the class of vehicle you are driving, a current certificate of insurance which covers at least third parties, dependant on the age of your vehicle (over 3 years old) you may require a MOT certificate, you also need to have a tax disc for the car, these can run for either 6 months or 12 months. There are heavy fines imposed if there is no current tax disc. When your tax runs out you should have your new one ready to replace it the first day of the following month.

Can I drive vehicles when I have a provisional licence?

When you have a provisional licence for a motorcycle you may ride the vehicle without supervision as long as you are displaying L-plates. For all other vehicles you require to be supervised by a suitably qualified driver, namely a person who has passed their driving test, over 21 years of age and have at least 3 years driving experience, as well as having your L plates displayed. Provisional licences for motorcycles are very complicated and if you require information on them various leaflets are available from the post office.

Who is responsible for the passengers in my car?

If a passenger in your car does not wear a seatbelt when there is one fitted to the vehicle, they are responsible for the payment of any fine imposed on them if an officer sees them not to be wearing a belt, unless the passenger is under 16. No one is exempt from wearing a seatbelt unless they have a medical exemption certificate which they should carry with them, these certificates are issued by Doctors.



Waiting for 17...waiting to drive

What do I do if I'm involved in a Road Accident?

The law states that if you are involved in a road accident that involves personal injury or damage to other property, other than your own vehicle you are required to stop and supply your name and address and the registration number of the vehicle to any person who is affected by the road accident. If you stop and there are no persons in the vicinity to pass this information to, you must report the accident as soon as reasonably practicable and within 24 hours to a police constable or at a police station. Failure to comply with this is an offence.

The above paragraph means that as long as the other person involved in the accident is given your details then the police do not require to be informed.

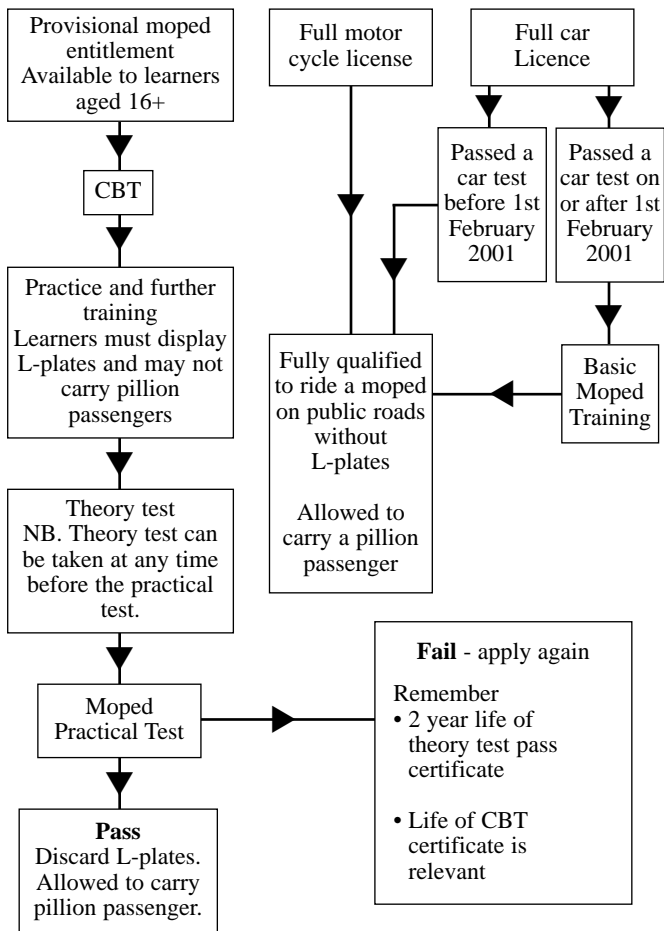
My friend, who has only just passed his test had to resit it as he had received points. Surely this is a mistake?

No, this is correct. Since 1st June 1997, newly qualified drivers (any age) will be on a probation period for two years. A total of six or more points during that time will mean they have to go back to learning status, apply for a new provisional licence and take the test again.

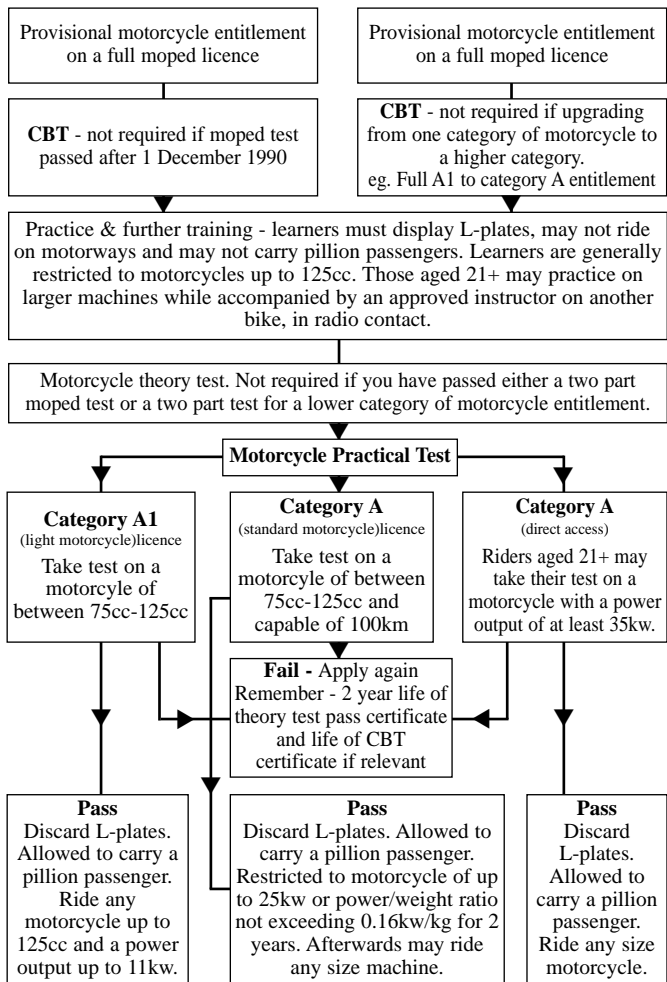


Return to Learner

How do I get a Moped License?



How do I get a Motorcycle License?



What are you looking for?

Are you looking for a career where your services are valued, where you will receive support and development throughout your career, a career which is secure and where one day is never like the next. It sounds good doesn't it?

Are you motivated, socially aware, an effective communicator, flexible and team spirited? Then you may have what it takes to be a Police Constable with Northern Constabulary. All that we ask is that you are at least 18 years on application, have a full driving licence or are planning to pass your test within the next six months and that you are physically fit and healthy with good eyesight.

It doesn't stop at recruitment, we then build on your natural skills and attributes by way of a two year training programme known as probation. So let's look at how we get you from selection to confirmation as a Police Constable.

The theme is continuous professional development and the first step is induction training. Issued with your uniform, you will be given advice regarding your conditions of Service, undergo awareness training in equal opportunities, and prepare for the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan Castle, Clackmannanshire. Unlike any other College you may have attended, the Scottish Police College will test you academically and physically.

And the story does not end here.

On return to Northern Constabulary you will be taught local procedures and begin your job training. At the Scottish Police College you will have been taught legislation and police powers and have practised these in skills development exercises. On the beat you will have the opportunity to develop these new skills in a practical setting under the guidance of a Tutor Constable. You will also undergo a programme of Officer Safety Training to equip you to deal effectively with confrontation.

Training remains an important feature at Northern Constabulary and will continue throughout your career on a local force and national basis.



RECRUITMENT HOTLINE
TEL: 01463 720318

The police are there to assist you and other members of the public. If you have any queries please go into your nearest police station and ask for any assistance you require. You may also contact the police by telephone, the number is in the phonebook under police, or alternatively you may phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, which is totally confidential.

Don't be apprehensive about talking to the police - THEY ARE ONLY HUMAN! many of them are parents with families of their own.

USEFUL TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBERS:

Anti Bullying Network	0131 651 6103 (information line only)
*Brook Advisory Helpline	0800 0185023 (advice on sexual matters)
*Childline	0800 1111
Commission for Racial Equality	0207 828 7022
*Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
*Drinkline - Youth	0800 9178282
*Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
*Health Education Board for Scotland	0645 125442
Highland Youth Voice	01463 702026/702013
*Learning Direct Scotland	0800 100900
Northern Constabulary	01463 715555
Scottish Youth Parliament	0131 3132488
*Sexwise	0800 282930
*Smokeline	0800 848484
*The Samaritans	0345 909090
Victim Support	01463 710806
Workplace Bullying	0131 339 9232 (information line only)

* Freephone numbers



Can you answer the call?

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What are you waiting for? Contact the recruitment unit for an application form today.



RECRUITMENT HOTLINE
01463 720318
24 hour answering service
01463 720322

Email: training@north.police.uk