



ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN PROJECT 2026

INFORMATION LEAFLET



ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS FOR BLACK AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND

Welcome to Scotland! As you begin your journey in this beautiful country, it is essential to familiarize yourself with the road safety laws and regulations to ensure your safety and the safety of others. Driving in Scotland may differ significantly from driving in your home country, and understanding these differences will help you adapt and avoid legal complications. This leaflet provides comprehensive information on road safety awareness, traffic laws, and driving regulations in Scotland.

1. ROAD TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Scotland follows strict road traffic laws designed to ensure the safety of all road users. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

Driving on the Left

- In Scotland, vehicles drive on the left-hand side of the road. This may be different from your home country, so take time to adjust to this rule.
- Roundabouts are common, and vehicles entering a roundabout must give way to traffic coming from the right.

Road Signs

- Road signs in Scotland are standardized and use symbols and text to convey information. Familiarize yourself with common signs such as speed limits, pedestrian crossings, and warning signs.
- Pay attention to signs indicating school zones, construction areas, and wildlife crossings.

Speed Limits

Speed limits vary depending on the type of road and area:

- **Motorways and dual carriageways:** 70 mph (112 km/h)
- **Single carriageways:** 60 mph (96 km/h)
- **Built-up areas (towns and cities):** 30 mph (48 km/h)
- **Residential areas and near schools:** 20 mph (32 km/h)

Speed cameras are widely used to enforce speed limits, and penalties for speeding can include fines, points on your license, or even disqualification.

2. DRINK DRIVING LIMITS AND SAFE DRINKING PRACTICES

Scotland has one of the strictest drink-driving limits in Europe. It is crucial to understand these limits and avoid driving under the influence of alcohol.

Legal Alcohol Limit

The legal alcohol limit for drivers in Scotland is:

- **22 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath**
- **50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood**
- **67 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine**

These limits are lower than in many other countries, so even a small amount of alcohol can put you over the legal limit.

Safe Drinking and Driving

- The safest approach is **not to drink at all if you plan to drive**. Alcohol impairs judgment, reaction time, and coordination, increasing the risk of accidents.
- Police conduct random Breathalyzer tests, and penalties for drink driving include fines, imprisonment, and disqualification from driving.

3. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Understanding how vehicle insurance works in Scotland is vital for legal and financial protection.

Who Can Drive a Vehicle?

- In Scotland, insurance covers the **driver**, not the vehicle. This is different from some African countries where insurance covers the car regardless of who drives it.
- You must be explicitly listed on the insurance policy to legally drive a vehicle. Driving without insurance is a criminal offense.

Types Of Insurance

- **Third-Party Insurance:** Covers damage to other people's property or injury to others but does not cover damage to your own vehicle.
- **Third-Party, Fire, and Theft:** Includes third-party coverage and protection against fire damage or theft of your vehicle.
- **Comprehensive Insurance:** Covers third-party damage, theft, fire, and damage to your own vehicle.

Proof of Insurance

Always carry proof of insurance when driving. Police may request it during routine checks or after an accident.

4. PENALTIES FOR DRIVING OFFENSES

Driving offenses in Scotland are taken seriously, and penalties are designed to deter unsafe practices.

Points on Your License

- Scotland uses a penalty points system for driving offenses. Accumulating 12 or more points within three years can result in disqualification from driving.
- Common offenses and their associated points include:
 - Speeding: 3-6 points
 - Drink driving: Disqualification and possible imprisonment
 - Using a mobile phone while driving: 6 points
 - Driving without insurance: 6-8 points

Driving While You Have Points

If you have points on your license, you can still drive unless you reach the disqualification threshold. However, accumulating points may increase your insurance premiums.

5. USING MOBILE PHONES AND HANDHELD GADGETS

Distracted driving is a leading cause of accidents, and Scotland has strict laws against using mobile phones or other handheld devices while driving.

What Is Prohibited?

- It is illegal to use a mobile phone or handheld device while driving, even if you are stopped at traffic lights or in traffic.
- This includes texting, making calls, browsing the internet, or using social media.

Hands-Free Devices

You may use hands-free devices, such as Bluetooth headsets or dashboard mounts, but ensure they do not distract you from driving.

Penalties

Using a mobile phone while driving can result in a £200 fine and 6 penalty points on your license.

6. SEAT BELT AND CHILD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Wearing seat belts and ensuring child safety are mandatory in Scotland.

Seat Belts

- All passengers must wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion. Failure to do so can result in fines and penalty points.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring that passengers under 14 years old are wearing seat belts.

Child Safety

- Children under 12 years old or shorter than 135 cm must use appropriate child restraints, such as car seats or booster seats.
- **Car Seats:** Suitable for infants and toddlers. Ensure the seat is securely installed and meets safety standards.
- **Booster Seats:** Required for older children who have outgrown car seats but are still under the height requirement.

7. Other Road Safety Requirements

Cyclists and Pedestrians

Scotland has a significant number of cyclists and pedestrians. Always give way to them at crossings and maintain a safe distance when overtaking cyclists.

Weather Conditions

Scotland's weather can be unpredictable, with rain, fog, and snow being common. Adjust your driving to suit the conditions:

- Reduce speed in wet or icy conditions.
- Use headlights appropriately in foggy weather.
- Ensure your vehicle is equipped with winter tires during colder months.

Roadworthiness

- Regularly check your vehicle's brakes, lights, tires, and fluid levels to ensure it is roadworthy.
- Annual MOT (Ministry of Transport) tests are mandatory for vehicles over three years old to ensure they meet safety standards.

Emergency Situations

- In case of an accident, stop your vehicle immediately and ensure everyone's safety. Call emergency services by dialling **999** or **112**.
- If your vehicle breaks down, use hazard lights and place a warning triangle behind your car to alert other drivers.

8. TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING IN SCOTLAND

- **Plan Your Route:** Use GPS or maps to familiarize yourself with your route before driving.
- **Stay Alert:** Avoid driving when tired or distracted.
- **Follow Traffic Rules:** Always adhere to speed limits, road signs, and signals.

- **Be Patient:** Scottish roads, especially in rural areas, can be narrow and winding. Drive cautiously and be prepared to give way to oncoming traffic.
- **Respect Other Road Users:** Be courteous to other drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

CONCLUSION

Driving in Scotland can be a rewarding experience, offering the opportunity to explore stunning landscapes and vibrant cities. However, it is crucial to understand and follow the road safety laws and regulations to ensure a smooth transition and avoid legal issues. By adhering to the guidelines outlined in this leaflet, you can contribute to safer roads for everyone.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact your local council or visit the official website of Transport Scotland for more information.

Stay safe and enjoy your time in Scotland!

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