



## Driver Training for people who are hard of hearing or deaf

Dear ADI

The Authority has been approached by ADI's seeking advice on what approach they should take to communicating with learners who are either hard of hearing or deaf. Whilst there is some information contained within the Driving Instructors handbook (Stacey & Miller) further advice has been sought.

Guidance from the Irish Deaf Society suggests that any Instructor wishing to provide driver training services to people who are hard of hearing or deaf should firstly attend a deaf awareness training (DAT) programme. These programmes are available in either half day or full day courses. The programs are available at major population centre's nationwide, and depending on numbers attending, can cost from as little as €40.00 (where there are 8 participants)

The deaf awareness programme will not seek to teach Irish Sign Language (ISL) but rather concentrates on raising participants awareness of the main issues, for hard of hearing or deaf persons.

In addition training is available to anyone interested in attending a FETAC level 3 programme in Irish Sign Language. To gain an award in this area you will need to attend a 1½ hour lesson each week for 16 weeks. This course can be provided anywhere, where at least 8 people are attending. The Irish Deaf Society are keen to promote a list of driving instructors who are trained in these areas and the Road Safety authority will advise learners of the availability of suitably trained driving instructors able to deliver training.

Further information on both of these courses is available from the Irish Deaf Society, at 30 Blessington Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01.8601878 and from their web site at [www.deaf.ie](http://www.deaf.ie)

The RSA and the Irish Deaf Society are jointly preparing an information booklet for ADI's and it will be available soon from the RSA web site under '[Tools for ADI's](#)'

ADI Unit  
Road Safety Authority