

# FAQs on Autonomous Cars

## What is an autonomous car?

An autonomous car (also referred to as a driverless car or self-driving car) is a vehicle which is capable of detecting its surroundings through the use of Connected Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) and drive without human input.

## What are Connected Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS)?

C-ITS is a technology which allows vehicles to become connected to each other, their surrounding environment (e.g. traffic lights, road signage etc.) and other parts of the transport network through a wireless device. C-ITS technologies can improve road safety by preventing collisions and also assists in reducing congestion and environmental impacts.

## What are the regulations on autonomous cars?

The European Commission is in the process of developing Regulations to support the future implementation of connected and autonomous vehicles and it is expected that the C-ITS platform will significantly influence any legislation adopted by individual Member States, including Ireland.

## Who is responsible for future legislation / policy in this area?

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) is responsible for Ireland's future policy in this area. You can contact [DTTAS](mailto:roadsafety@dttas.ie) on (01) 6041406 or email: [roadsafety@dttas.ie](mailto:roadsafety@dttas.ie)

## Where can I find further information on Autonomous cars?

To view a detailed briefing note on Autonomous Cars published by the European Parliament, please click [here](#). This paper covers the following areas:

- Potentials and challenges of vehicle automation
- The different levels of automation
- Automation technologies and their deployment
- The Regulatory and legal framework
- The General regulatory environment
- Ongoing work in the EU