**Establishment of Road Safety Authority**

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) was established on 1 September 2006 as a statutory organisation created by the [Road Safety Authority Act, 2006](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/14/enacted/en/html). Following the 2006 Act, functions previously undertaken by the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority and the National Safety Council were transferred to the RSA.  The aim of the RSA is to save lives and prevent injuries by reducing the number and severity of collisions on the road. The functions of the RSA, as set out in the Road Safety Authority Act 2006, include: driver testing, vehicle standards and certain enforcement functions, road safety promotion, driver education and road safety research.

In 2011 the Authority was assigned responsibility for the Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Function from Local Authorities. The [Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness) Act 2012](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/16/enacted/en/html) was signed into law on 30th May 2012. This act facilitated the functions of Local Authorities in relation to the roadworthiness testing of commercial vehicles (light and heavy commercial vehicles and buses) transferring to the RSA. For the first time in Ireland, there was one agency established with responsibility for the overall regulation, control and authorisation of the commercial vehicle testing regime in the State with the functions of the Local Authorities in relation to commercial vehicle testing being assumed by the Authority.

In 2012, Regional Safety Officers from the Local Authorities were transferred to the Authority as the role carried out by the Local Authorities was transferred to the Authority. In January 2013, the Authority became the National Driver Licensing Authority. Up to this point, the responsibility for the issuing of driving licences rested with Local Authorities through the network of Motor Taxation Offices (MTO). The National Driver Licence Service or NDLS, is the name given to the new, dedicated service which receives and processes applications for learner permits and driver licences. The RSA is now responsible for the operation of this service and the management of large contracts with three different outsourced service providers.

As such, the Authority has a road safety mandate and a large public service delivery mandate. The Authority is an organisation that has grown in size and commercial complexity since its inception.