



Regulation of Driving Instruction Industry-Background

Objectives

In September 2006 the RSA was legally established. One of the functions assigned to it was to regulate the driving instruction industry. The purpose of regulating the industry is to standardise the quality of tuition and to help make an even greater contribution to road safety. The RSA see driving instructors as partners in the battle to reduce deaths and injuries on Irish roads. A Consultation document *The Regulation of Driving Instruction in Ireland* setting out broad proposals and seeking feedback as to how regulation might be put in place was issued in June 2006.

ADI Information Booklet – March 2007

Submissions from the industry were reviewed and an Approved Driving Instructors- Information Booklet was published in March 2007 which outlined how the RSA viewed the implementation of the ADI permit taking account of the consultation process and other developments.

Public Meetings

The RSA organised over twenty public meetings throughout the country where RSA representatives met with the driving instruction industry. It is estimated that over 900 existing driving instructors attended these public meetings.

Revised ADI Information Booklet – July 2007

The RSA took the industry's views on board following the public meetings and published an updated ADI information booklet in July 2007.

FETAC Award for Driving Instruction

The RSA believes that the qualification achieved by an ADI should be recognised as an educational award. The RSA has worked with FETAC (National body for further educational awards) and representatives of the industry to document the standard and skills needed to become an ADI. This group was a Standard Development Group and its representatives from the industry were -

Mr. Des Cummins, CEO, Driving Instructor Register of Ireland,
Mr. John Walsh, Managing Director, Irish School of Motoring,
Mr. John Flanagan, Driving Instructor, ACDI,
Mr. Terry Platt, Chairperson, Irish Riders Training Association.

FETAC will shortly make a recommendation to its Council on the appropriate qualifications.

Theoretical Test

The first theoretical which is stage 1 of the qualification process was held on Monday 27th August.

Existing Driving Instruction Qualifications

The RSA have consistently said that if an ADI applicant demonstrates that s/he meets the RSA ADI standard, because of qualifications held, s/he will be exempt from one or all of the qualification stages. The RSA has been in contact with individuals and driving instructor organisations about the issue from early this year and work is now underway to evaluate the qualifications covering a number of individuals.