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15 July 2020

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your contribution during the Committee stage of the Business and Planning Bill on Monday, concerning the renewal of car driving licences at the age of 70. I committed to write to you with a response.

You asked if the Government would consider replicating the scheme to waive the requirement for a medical report for drivers renewing their licence at the age of 70. However, drivers renewing a licence to drive cars at the age 70 do not have to provide a medical report with their application unless they are also applying to retain entitlement to drive small lorries and minibuses, which was granted on licences issued before 1997.

I should reiterate that whether or not a medical report is required, all drivers renewing a driving licence must make a declaration about their health. If a relevant medical condition is declared, the DVLA will carry out an investigation into an applicant's fitness to drive before considering whether a licence should be issued.

The quickest and easiest way to renew a driving licence at 70 is to use DVLA's online service. However, I recognise that not all will be able to use that service and will need to make a paper application. Drivers who have made an application to renew their car licence may be able to continue to drive while their application is being processed, provided they meet certain criteria and have not been told by a doctor or optician not to drive.

I can assure you that as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to consider contingencies to help drivers stay mobile, taking into account the developing situation and the impacts on road safety.

I will share a copy of this letter with all Noble Lords who took part in the debate on Group 9, and I will place a copy of the letter in the library of the House.

*Yours,  
Charlotte*

**BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON**