



The Chronicle



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SOUTHERN DRIVERS
COMPANY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.

Dependants travel facilities.

Members whose children are still attending school as a result in the leaving age being increased by the Government, should advise staff travel at ATOC this is the case. We have been advised there are no plans to automatically issue the passes beyond the age of 16 as there may be cases where some children will be able to leave school providing they meet the Government requirements on engaging in employment.

Prescription sunglasses.

Drivers employed on Southern will now be allowed to wear prescription sunglasses, they should be ordered at same time drivers are ordering their normal prescription glasses. DLM's are available to provide assistance or additional information should anyone require it. We have been made aware that some drivers were not made aware of this, they should speak to their DLM without delay and their DLM should advise Occupational Health. In some cases, they may ask a driver to visit an Opticians for an eye sight check so the prescription sunglasses can be ordered.

Varifocal Glasses.

Varifocal Glasses are also now permitted for drivers. This will provide drivers with a choice of either varifocal or bifocal spectacles.

Hearing Aids.

The use of hearing aids will be permitted for drivers, however, not everyone will be suitable as hearing aids are dependent on individual circumstances. Southern have advised that an independent audiologist test will be required before funding for hearing aids is considered. The Government may provide some part funding under the access to work scheme and Southern will fund the remainder. Advice on the funding will be provided at the appropriate time and on a case by case basis.

Laser eye surgery.

Laser eye surgery will be permitted for drivers who require it for medical reasons to enable them to maintain the required standard. Southern will not allow drivers time off for laser eye surgery for cosmetic reasons, as it may take between 3 to 9 months for each eye stabilise after the surgery.

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