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RAC comments on DVLA figures showing a rise in number of drivers disqualified under the age of 17

Figures released by the DVLA following a Freedom of Information question have revealed that over 1,000 under 17s were disqualified from driving in 2017. The number has risen by 47% over the last four years.

RAC Insurance spokesman Simon Williams said: “These figures are truly shocking as every underage driver presents a frightening danger to other road users as they could so easily end up taking someone else’s life as well as their own.

“Sadly, this is almost certainly just the tip of the iceberg because they have to be caught breaking the law in this way and, with a 27% reduction in the number of roads policing officers since 2010, the chances of getting caught are far lower. This means many underage drivers are inevitably getting away scot free.

“Every child that gets behind the wheel is also driving without insurance which is a cost that is borne by every law-abiding motorist who pays car insurance. The Motor Insurers’ Bureau, which acts as the insurer of last resort, pays out around 25,000 claims on uninsured and untraced, or ‘hit and run’, drivers every year, with 120 of these involving accidents where someone lost their life.

“In this day and age we really shouldn’t be having children driving before they’re allowed to legally with their provisional driving licence at 17. More needs to be done to stop this happening, but we appreciate it’s a very difficult problem to tackle, especially when legitimate young drivers are

renting out vehicles to groups of children so they can have a go at the wheel.

“It also seems very wrong that children caught committing this offence can serve their bans while they are legally not allowed to drive, leaving them free to start learning to drive once they turn 17.”

The press office email address is press.office@rac.co.uk and media centre is at media.rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to nearly 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC's breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and can be called on using [myRAC](#) – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

Contacts



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