



## Road Signs Ireland

Road signs play a huge role in making Ireland a country with safe roads. Learners who plan to take up a driving test and get licensed are expected to recognise a befitting percentage of these signs if they want to come out successful with the test.

Thanks for downloading and best of luck kick starting your driving!

On a general note, Road signs are divided into four broad aspects. They are Regulatory road signs, warning road signs, information road signs, and motorway road signs.

Some of these signs in the warning category are explained as follows.



**Dangerous corner:** Road configuration is something you can't really predict if you are driving for the first time. No matter how safe a road may look, you can always expect to meet up with a sharp corner, which is a potentially dangerous road configuration.

The road sign of a dangerous corner is in the form of a right angle pointer. Usually, it points in the direction to which the bend in question heads.

This will help road users have an idea which side of the road the bent is tilted to and how sharp it is.

Whenever you see a warning sign of this nature, it is best for you to drop down the speed of the vehicle and pay more than usual attention to the road configuration; driving accordingly.

**Roundabout ahead:** roundabouts are an integral part of roads in many countries. Ireland is not an exemption. There are roundabouts even in rural areas and in highbrow areas, we have complex road structures which include roundabouts.

A roundabout warning sign usually comes in the form of three round pointers that gives them a general look of a circle of the same diameter.

Once you see this, you should have it in mind that you are approaching a major roundabout.

Therefore, it is expected that you drop your speed and anticipate the situation you are going to encounter getting to the roundabout.

**Mini roundabout:** this is quite different from the type of roundabout earlier described, the size of a roundabout is very important to the attitude of the driver plying the road it determines the attitude of drivers on the road.

Hence, in addition to identifying a roundabout warning sign on the road, it is vital that you have an idea of how big it is.

A mini-roundabout warning sign has a dot in the middle, then surrounded by three curved lines towing the same diameter, making it look like a circle with three broken lines. However, the curved lines are with small arrows or pointers as described in the main roundabout warning sign.

Once you see something of this nature, you can expect to meet a not-so-busy roundabout. However, you still want to be careful and reduce your speed as you approach it.

**Merging traffic:** in busy areas, you get to see two busy roads merging in a slanted format. You get to see that it is not really a T junction. Usually, the receiving lane is a one-way lane.

Once you are about to get to a road with this configuration, it is always vital to slow down your speed.

However, many drivers feel this is not a junction; hence, they tend to just transit at the same speed level.

That is why you get to see a warning signal for roads of this configuration so drivers can be mindful of their speed as they approach merging traffic.

**Two-way traffic:** this can also be known as a double lane. It is not uncommon to see two standard roads side by side, demarcated with a constructed concrete ridge that houses large street lamps in Irish cities.

When you are approaching a road of this configuration, you get to see a warning sign of two arrows lying side by side but pointing in different directions.

On seeing this, drivers are expected to configure their minds to comply with the rules associated with driving on roads with this configuration.

For example, they should know when they need to be on the fast lane or slow lane. Again, they want to exercise caution in transiting from a fast to a slow lane or vice versa.

**Dangerous bend ahead:** Don't get confused, there is actually a difference between a dangerous corner and a dangerous bend. The difference is that one being a bend and the other being a corner.

While a corner is quite gentle in its diversion, a bend is way swifter. For a dangerous bend, its sign looks exactly like a gently bending arrow.

In essence, you want to exercise a more significant deal of patience when approaching a dangerous corner. In the case of a bend, you want to be careful too by dropping your speed while you ply the bending part of the road.

**Series of dangerous bends ahead:** some road configuration can be really complex. You find roads like this in areas with rough topography, such as undulating mountains that are sometimes characterised by clumsy water bodies.

In cases like this, road designers are usually short of options in their quest to deliver easily navigable roads. This gives birth to a set of dangerous bends.

Once this is the situation, the only option to maintain road safety is by cautioning road users via a warning traffic sign that reads "series of dangerous roads ahead." This sign is usually in the form of a snake-like arrow, signifying multiple bends.

It is not uncommon for roads like this to be accompanied by multiple bumps. This is usually done in a bid to force reckless drivers to drop their speed while they navigate the bends.

**Restricted headroom:** some areas are mindful of the type of vehicle allowed into them. Most of the time, reasons for this restriction might be road capability or even security in some cases.

For roads like this, you get to see road signs, including the specific height of restricted vehicles, if your vehicle is a bit longer than the benchmark height; you are likely to be met with some sort of restriction.

Most times, a barricade that prevents the unwanted category of vehicle is built at the entrance of such roads.

**T-junction:** this road type is quite common. It is found both in rural areas and urban centers.

It is usually the transition of a less busy road to a major highway. This is indicated in the warning traffic sign as it is often a short thin vertical line meeting with a longer horizontal line that is visibly thicker.

**Series of dangerous corners ahead:** the look of this warning sign is terrifying. Often the situation on the ground is just as dangerous as this sign suggests.

It makes no sense to drive recklessly on roads like this.

The construction story is similar to that of dangerous bends as mentioned earlier. Also, it is not uncommon for roads like this to be accompanied by bumps.

When you see a warning traffic sign that indicates two consecutive sharp bends, making it look like the “letter N,” then you should know you are bound for a dangerous corner.

With that in mind, we present the full list of road signs seen in Ireland and the categories they fall under.

## Warning traffic signs

You already know this is the most crucial to your safety when driving. As the name implies, they are meant to warn you of approaching dangers. They are arranged into a few subcategories for better understanding.

**Hazards ahead:** as mentioned earlier, they are used to warn road users of an incoming danger

- Dangerous corner ahead
- Roundabout ahead
- Mini-roundabout ahead
- Merging traffic
- Two-way traffic
- Dangerous bend ahead
- Series of dangerous bends ahead
- Series of dangerous corners ahead
- Restricted headroom
- T-junction

Junctions ahead: With roads of varying importance or roads of equal importance



Crossroads



Side road



T-junction



Y-junction



Staggered crossroads

- T-junction
- Y-junction
- Side road
- Crossroads
- Staggered crossroads

## Advanced warning of major roads



T-junction with dual carriageway



Crossroads with dual carriageway



Crossroads

- T-junctions of a dual carriage way
- Crossroads with dual carriage way
- Crossroads

# General-purpose warning signs



Drive on left



Safe height plate



Low flying aircraft



Road divides



Merging/diverging traffic



Dual carriageway ends



Traffic cross-over ahead



Overhead electric cables



Traffic signals ahead



Pedestrian crossing ahead



Slippery road ahead



Road narrows on both sides



Road narrows from left



Road narrows from right



Tunnel ahead



Cyclists



Start of a passing lane



Lane loss



Start of a climbing lane



Loop road ahead



Sharp dip ahead



Series of bumps or hollows ahead



Sharp rise ahead  
– for example,  
hump-back bridge



Deer or wild animals



Sheep



Cattle and farm animals



Accompanied horses and ponies



Crosswinds



Steep descent ahead



Steep ascent ahead



Level crossing ahead, guarded by gates or lifting barrier



Level crossing ahead, unguarded by gates or lifting barrier



Level crossing ahead with lights and barriers



Stop when lights are red



Automatic level crossing ahead



Chevron board  
(a sharp change of direction to the left)



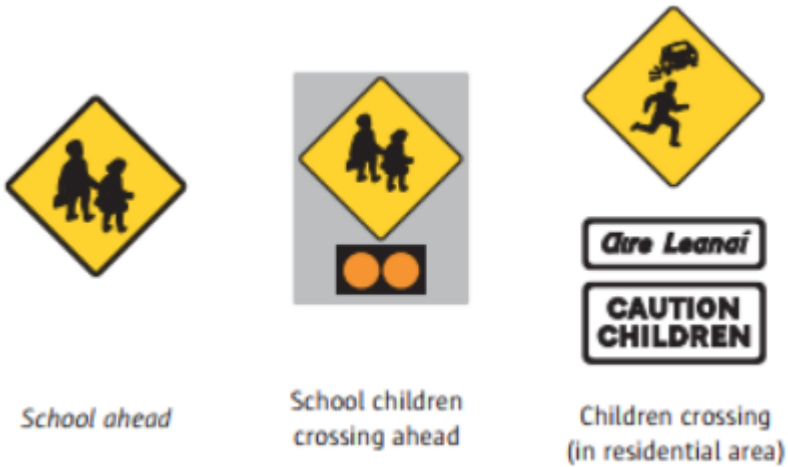
Chevron board  
(a sharp change of direction to the right)

- Drive on left



- Safe height plate
- Low-flying aircrafts
- Road divides
- Merging/diverging traffic
- Dual carriage ends
- Traffic crossover ahead
- Overhead electric cables
- Traffic signals ahead
- Pedestrian crossing ahead
- Slippery road ahead.
- Road narrows on both sides
- Road narrows from left
- Road narrows from right
- Tunnel ahead
- Cyclists
- Start of a passing lane
- lane loss
- Start of a climbing lane
- Loop road ahead
- Sharp dip ahead
- Series of bumps ahead
- Sharp rise ahead
- Wild animals ahead
- Sheep
- Cattle and farm animals
- Accompanied horses and ponies
- Crosswinds
- Steep descent ahead
- Steep ascent ahead
- Danger of falling rocks
- Unprotected quay, canal or river
- Low bridge ahead
- Level crossing ahead, guarded by gates or lifting barrier
- Level crossing ahead, unguarded by gates or lifting barrier
- Level crossing ahead, guarded by gates or lifting barriers
- Stop when lights are red
- Automatic level crossing ahead
- Chevron board (left or right direction)

## Warning Signs for Schools and Kids



- School ahead
- School children crossing ahead
- Children crossing ahead (in academic area)
- Children crossing ahead (in residential areas)

## Tram signs



- Tram lane crossing ahead
- Tram lane warning signs for pedestrians (look right, look left, and look both ways)
- Slippery for cyclists

## Warning signs for road works



Roadworks ahead



One-lane crossover  
(out)



One-lane crossover  
(back)



Move to left  
(one lane)



Move to right  
(one lane)



Move to left  
(two lanes)



Move to right  
(two lanes)



Obstruction  
between lanes



End of obstruction  
between lanes



Start of central  
reserve or  
obstruction



End of central  
reserve or  
obstruction



Lanes diverge at  
crossover



Lanes rejoin at  
crossover



Two-lanes  
crossover (back)



Two-lanes  
crossover (out)



Single lane (for  
shuttle working)



Two-way traffic



Road narrows  
from left



Road narrows  
from right



Road narrows  
on both sides



Offside lane (of two) closed



Nearside lane (of two) closed



Offside lane (of three) closed



Nearside lane (of three) closed



Two offside lanes (of three) closed



Two nearside lanes (of three) closed.  
Two alternative styles



Offside lane (of four) closed



Nearside lane (of four) closed



Two offside lanes (of four) closed



Two nearside lanes (of four) closed



Side road on left



Side road on right



Site access on left



Site access on right



Temporary traffic signals ahead



Flagman ahead



Queues likely



Hump or ramp



Uneven surface



Slippery road



Loose chippings



Pedestrians cross to left



Pedestrians cross to right



Overhead electric cables



Detour ahead



Detour to left



Detour to right



Road closed



Diverted traffic left



Diverted traffic



Diverted traffic



Diverted traffic



End of detour

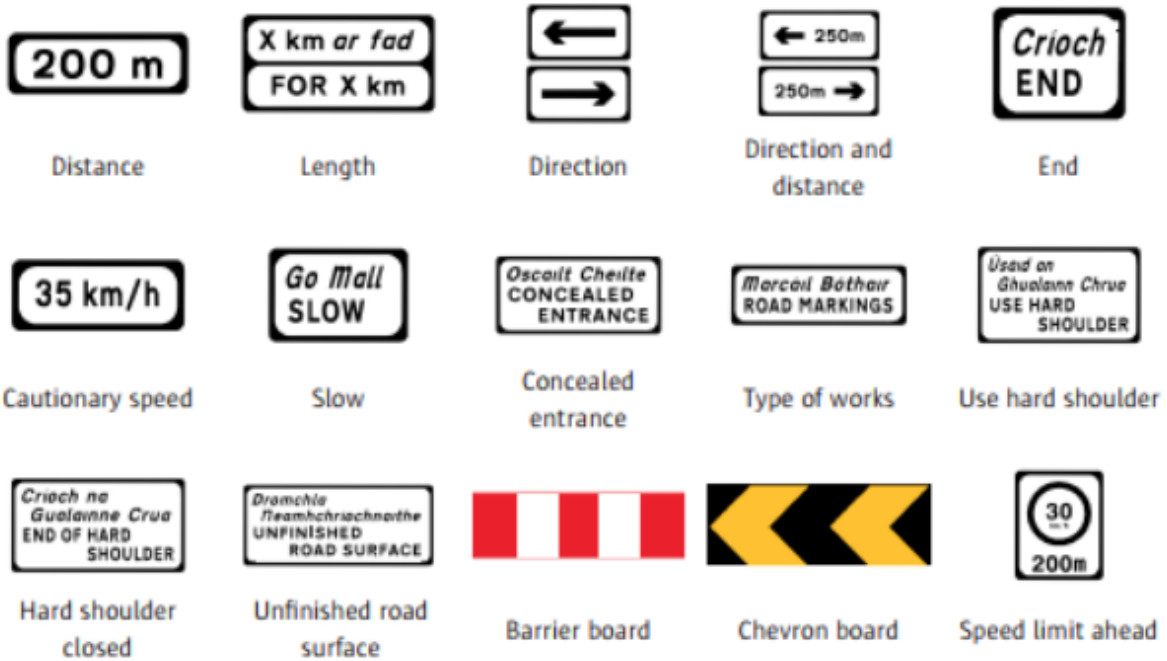


Detour destination

- Road works ahead
- One-lane crossover (out)
- One-lane crossover (back)
- Move to leave (one lane)
- Move to right (one lane)
- Move to left (two lanes)
- Move to right (two lanes)
- Obstruction between lanes
- End of obstruction between lanes
- Start of central reserve or obstruction
- End of central reserve or obstruction
- Lanes diverge at crossover
- Lanes rejoin at crossover
- Two-lanes crossover (back)
- Two-lanes crossover (out)
- Single-lane (for shuttle working)
- Two-way traffic
- Road narrows from left
- Road narrows from right
- Road narrows on both sides
- Offside lane (of two) closed
- Nearside lane (of two) closed
- Offside lane (of three) closed
- Nearside lane (of three) closed
- Two offside lanes (of three) closed
- Two nearside lanes (of three) closed. Two alternative styles
- Offside lane (of four) closed
- Nearside lane (of four) closed
- Two offside lanes (of four) closed

- Two nearside lanes (of four) closed
- Side road on left
- Side road on right
- Site access on left
- Site access on right
- Temporary traffic
- signals ahead
- Flagman ahead
- Queues likely Hump or ramp
- Uneven surface
- Slippery road
- Loose chippings
- Pedestrians cross To left
- Pedestrians cross To right
- Overhead electric cables
- Detour ahead
- Detour to left
- Detour to right
- Road closed
- Diverted traffic left
- Diverted traffic
- Diverted traffic
- Diverted traffic
- End of detour
- Detour destination

## Information plates at road works



- Distance
- Length
- Direction
- Direction and distance
- End
- Cautionary speed
- Slow
- Concealed Entrance
- Type of works
- Use hard shoulder
- Hard shoulder closed
- Unfinished road surface
- Barrier board
- Chevron board
- Speed limit ahead

## Manual traffic control signs at roads



Flagman ahead



Stop



Either form of Go or Téigh can be used

- Flagman ahead
- Stop
- Either form of Go or Téigh can be used

## Regulatory traffic signs

Regulation signs are road signals that require a driver to obey a specific order. They are also called traffic control signage.

This is basically the most important signage category for drivers who are new in town as they serve as guide for them not break traffic rules that could attract stiff sanctions..

They include the following





Stop



Yield



Yield



School wardens  
stop sign



No left turn



No entry or 'No  
straight ahead'



No right turn



Parking prohibited



Clearway



Max speed limit  
30kmh



Max speed limit  
50kmh



Max speed limit  
60kmh



Max speed limit  
80kmh



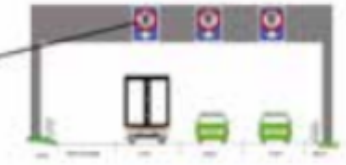
Max speed limit  
100kmh



Max speed limit  
120kmh



Max speed limit  
80kmh



Speed limits per lane



No bicycles



No ridden or accompanied horses



No entry to vehicles



Maximum gross weight (traffic management)



Maximum vehicle length



Maximum vehicle width



Maximum axle weight



No overtaking for three-axle vehicles



No horse carriages



Height restriction



Taxi rank



No entry for large vehicles (by reference to weight)



No U-turn



No overtaking



Height restriction



Pedestrianised street



Parking permitted



Disc parking plate



Zonal restriction – no parking of large vehicles



End of the restriction zone

- Stop
- Yield
- School wardens stop sign
- No left turn
- No entry or 'No straight ahead'
- No right turn
- Parking prohibited
- Clearway
- Max speed limit 30kmh
- Max speed limit 50kmh
- Max speed limit 60kmh

- Max speed limit 80kmh
- Max speed limit 100kmh
- Max speed limit 120kmh
- Speed limits per lane
- No bicycles
- No ridden or accompanied horses
- No entry to vehicles
- Maximum gross weight (traffic management)
- Maximum vehicle length
- Maximum vehicle width
- Maximum axle weight
- No overtaking for three-axle vehicles
- No horse carriages
- Height restriction
- Taxi rank
- No entry for large vehicles (by reference to weight)
- No U-turn
- No overtaking
- Height restriction
- Pedestrianised street
- Parking permitted
- Disc parking plate
- Zonal restriction – parking of large vehicles
- End of the restriction zone

**Mandatory signs at junctions:** these are usually in white and blue colours.



Turn left ahead



Turn right ahead



Turn left



Turn right



Straight ahead



Keep left



Keep right



Pass either side
















Mini roundabout

- Turn left ahead

- Turn right ahead
- Turn left Turn right Straight ahead
- Keep left
- Keep right
- Pass either side
- Mini roundabout

## Manual traffic control sign at road works

**Manual traffic control sign at roadworks**

	<b>Manual traffic control sign at roadworks</b>			
No entry for pedestrians to tramway				No entry to goods vehicles (by reference to number of axles)
	Stop	Either form of Go or Téigh can be used		
				
With flow bus lane on left	With flow bus lane on right	Contra flow bus lane	Tram lane on left	Tram lane on right
				
Start of cycle track	End of cycle track	Electronic variable speed limit sign (tunnel only)	Variable speed limit	In a tunnel goods vehicles cannot use right-hand lane (by reference to number of axles)



Electronic periodic speed limit sign



Electronic periodic speed limit sign at school



Tram only street



Tram and access only street



Bus only street



Turn back



Pedestrians and bicycles only



Separate bicycle and pedestrian lanes

- Stop
- Go
- No entry to goods vehicles (by reference to number of axles)
- no entry for pedestrians to tramway
- With flow bus lane on left
- With flow bus lane on right
- Contra flow bus lane
- Tram lane on left
- Tram lane on right
- Start of cycle track
- End of cycle track
- Electronic variable speed
- limit sign (tunnel only)
- Variable speed limit
- Electronic periodic speed limit sign
- Electronic periodic speed limit sign at school
- Tram only street
- Tram and access only street
- Bus only street
- Turn back
- Pedestrians and bicycles only
- Separate bicycle and pedestrian lanes

**Traffic lane control signs:** this category of regulatory traffic signs is useful in tunnels, national roads and motorways.



Go (Lane open)



Stop (Lane closed)



Move into the left-hand lane



Move into the right-hand lane

- Go (Lane open)
- Stop (Lane closed)
- Move into the left-hand lane
- Move into the right-hand lane

## Variable message signs (VMS)



Overhead VMS



Mobile VMS displaying text message



Mobile VMS displaying chevrons



Examples of VMS chevron formats

- Overhead VMS
- Mobile VMS displaying text message
- Mobile VMS displaying chevrons
- VMS chevron formats



## Information Road Signs

Usually in rectangular forms, they provide guidance and information for drivers; helping them explore interstate roads without having to ask passersby, pedestrians, or fellow road users for directions.

### Advance direction signs



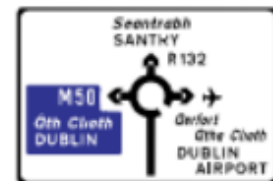
Motorway



National road



National road



Regional road



Lane destination sign



Dublin Port Tunnel ahead

- Motorway
- National road
- National road
- Regional road
- Lane destination sign
- Dublin Port Tunnel ahead

## Direction signs at junctions

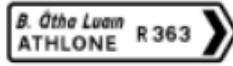


Motorway direction sign

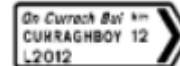
National road direction signs



Regional road direction sign



Regional road direction sign



Local road direction sign



Destination distance sign



Town or village sign



Cycle track information signs with numbers referring to mapped cycle routes



Slow lane sign



Cul-de-sac



Industrial estate symbol



Disabled persons parking bay



Airport symbol



Ferry symbol



Alternative route for high vehicles



Lay-by ahead sign



Hospital ahead sign



Lay-by sign



Hospital sign



Car park with facilities for disabled persons



SOS lay-by



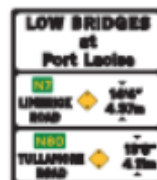
Speed camera



Speed limit change ahead



Advance information sign for low clearance



Advance information sign for low clearance



Alternative route for heavy vehicles



Traffic calming sign



Traffic calming sign



Supplementary plate



Ramps on road

- Motorway direction sign
- National road direction signs
- Regional road direction sign
- Regional road direction sign
- Local road direction sign
- Destination distance sign
- Town or village sign
- Cycle track information signs with numbers referring to mapped cycle routes
- Slow lane sign
- Cul-de-sac
- Industrial estate symbol
- Disabled persons parking bay
- Airport symbol
- Ferry symbol
- Alternative route for high vehicles
- Lay-by ahead sign
- Hospital ahead sign
- Lay-by sign
- Hospital sign
- Car park with facilities for disabled persons
- SOS lay-by
- Speed camera
- Speed limit change ahead
- Advance information sign for low clearance
- Advance information sign for low clearance
- Alternative route for heavy vehicles
- Traffic calming sign
- Traffic calming sign
- Supplementary plate
- Ramps on road

## Tourist information signs



Advance sign for facilities in lay-by



Advance sign for lay-by with tourism information



Sign for Óige youth hostels



Advance direction to local services



Signing to approved tourist information



Alternative route off the motorway



Tourist advanced direction sign



Tourist attraction direction sign



Pedestrian sign to a tourist attraction



Pedestrian sign to a car park



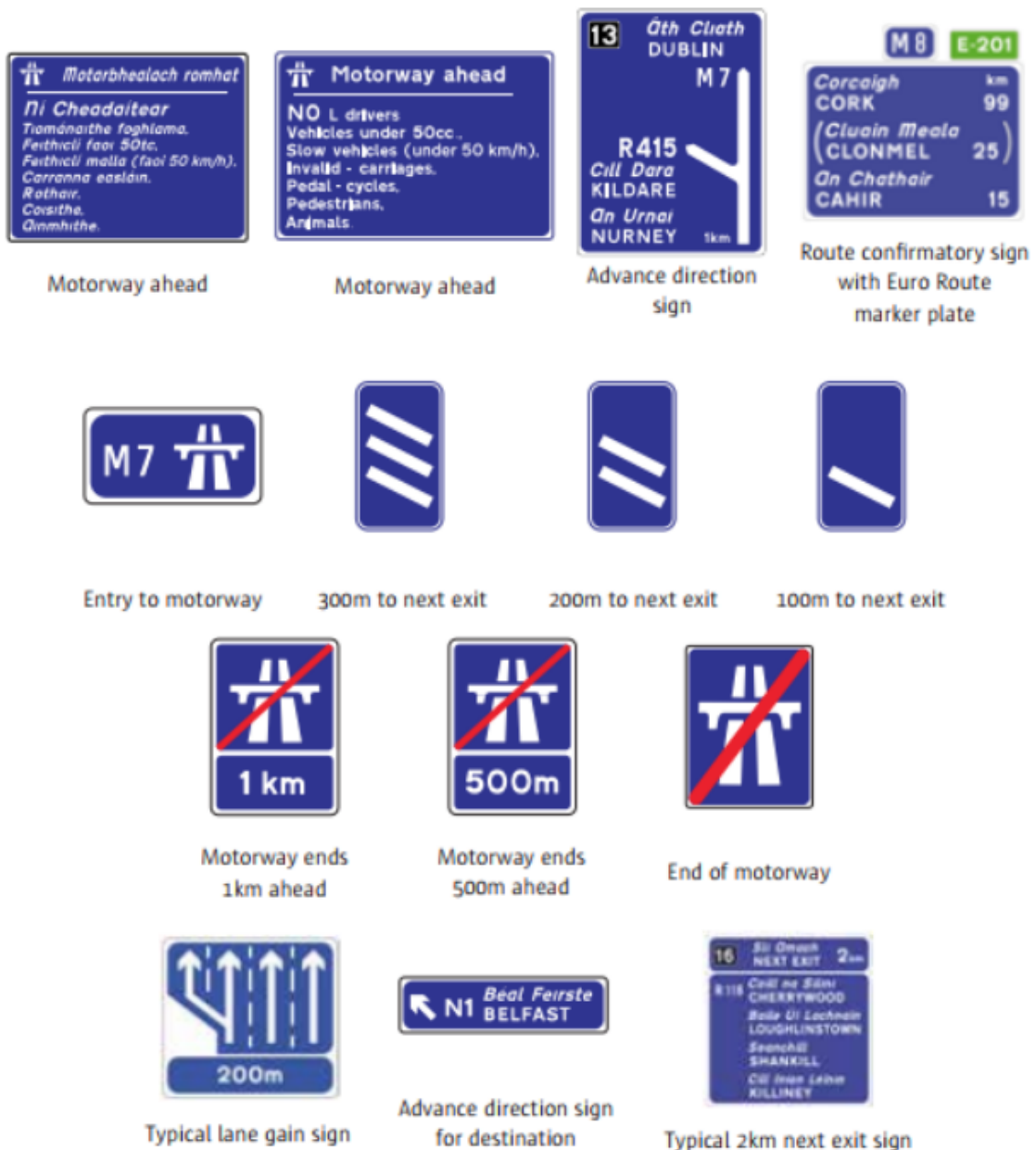
Sign to approved tourist information points

- Advance sign for facilities in lay-by
- Advance sign for lay-by with tourism information
- Sign for youth hostels
- Advance direction to local services
- Signing to approved tourist information
- Alternative route off the motorway
- Tourist advanced direction sign

- Tourist attraction direction sign
- Pedestrian sign to a tourist attraction
- Pedestrian sign to a car park
- Sign to approved tourist information points

## Motorway signs

These are signs that are basically aimed to help drivers have an idea of the road type they are on to and what type of road to expect a few meters away.





Toll plaza ahead



Toll charges



Toll plaza information sign



Motorway service area information sign



Route confirmatory sign for M7



Authorised vehicles only



Garda only

- Motorway ahead
- Motorway ahead
- Advance direction sign
- Route confirmatory sign with Euro Route marker plate
- Entry to motorway
- 300m to next exit
- 200m to next exit
- 100m to next exit
- The motorway ends 1km ahead
- Motorway ends 500m ahead
- End of motorway
- Typical lane gain sign
- Advance direction for destination
- Typical 2km next exit sign
- Toll plaza ahead
- Route confirmatory sign for M7

- Toll plaza information sign
- Authorized vehicles only
- Garda only
- Toll charges
- Toll plaza
- Motorway service plaza
- information sign

## Other Learner Driver Resources

These are links to our website:

- [Learning to drive](#)
- [Driving test questions](#)
- [Road signs](#)
- [Mock theory test](#)