

Car Drivers

Technology

Needs

Ergonomics

Attitudes

Prolonging Safe Driving through Technology

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The Investigation

The Issues

In British society car use plays an important part in helping older people maintain social activities such as visiting friends and relatives. Cars also enable people to access essential services, such as shops and health centres, that are increasingly being placed further away from residential areas. As people get older, accessing services on foot or by public transport becomes more difficult and the car might be the only viable option. However, cars are designed for the "general public", often a euphemism for those aged under 50. Older people may have specific needs and requirements and it may be that technological aids to driving can meet these needs, particularly if they are designed with older people in mind.



The Project

The project will work with a small group of older people to identify their needs and develop conceptual ideas to fulfil them. These ideas will then be introduced to industry experts, academics and other older drivers to assess their feasibility, desirability, likelihood that they could be developed and would provide value for money.



Potential Benefits

For older people

The outcomes from this project can be used by designers to create technology that will enable older people to continue driving for longer and with increased safety. The project provides an opportunity for older people to become involved in the research in a truly participatory manner that will ensure the findings are relevant for them and their age group.



For society

The project will increase society's knowledge of older drivers' attitudes towards car driving and technological aids, which can then be used to develop and prototype such technologies in future projects. It would also underpin future research addressing similar issues on the effects of technology in enhancing the lives of this important and growing sector of society.



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