

DSA ezine for road safety professionals

More driving test candidates to benefit from better local services

Move to take testing closer to candidates

Road Safety Minister Mike Penning last month announced plans to extend the DSA trial providing a more local service for driving test candidates.

As well as using conventional driving test centres, DSA has been looking at whether practical driving tests can be delivered from other venues such as local authority buildings, hotels or leisure centres.

This new approach is currently being trialled at eight locations and, following positive feedback from candidates and instructors, DSA now plans to develop the model and extend the scheme to five more areas across the country. These will be centred on an existing driving test centre 'hub'. Examiners

based at the hub will then conduct tests from additional satellite locations within each trial area.

The five new areas are: Kettering, Glasgow, Manchester, Worcester and Watford.

Subject to finding suitable routes and premises, DSA will explore the possibility of providing tests from the following satellite locations:

- Kettering: Corby, Market Harborough and Wellingborough
- Glasgow: Johnstone, Renfrew, East Kilbride, Cathcart and Bearsden
- Manchester: Cheadle, Altrincham, Salford, Middleton, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham
- Worcester: Kidderminster, Droitwich and Bromsgrove
- Watford: Hemel Hempstead, Harpenden, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City

As part of the longer term planning for driving test delivery, DSA is looking for opportunities



to work in partnership with the private sector across the country. Tests will still be conducted by DSA examiners, but the agency is inviting businesses who could provide premises for delivering driving tests to register their interest. A Prior Information Notice has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union and the agency hopes to attract interest from a wide section of the business community. Organisations that are involved in driving tuition will not be allowed to bid for the contract.

Motorcycle review update

Progress made - and next steps

The motorcycle test review announced by the Road Safety Minister in June 2010 has been looking at alternative ways of providing the motorcycle test. The aim is to accommodate all the manoeuvres in a single on-road test in place of the current two part test.

In the first phase of the review, the Transport Research Laboratory conducted independent trials with test level candidates, which ended in December 2011. These showed that it's feasible to carry out the proposed manoeuvres on-road - apart from the figure of eight. A summary of the research findings can be found at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/rswp24-feasibility-phase-1/>

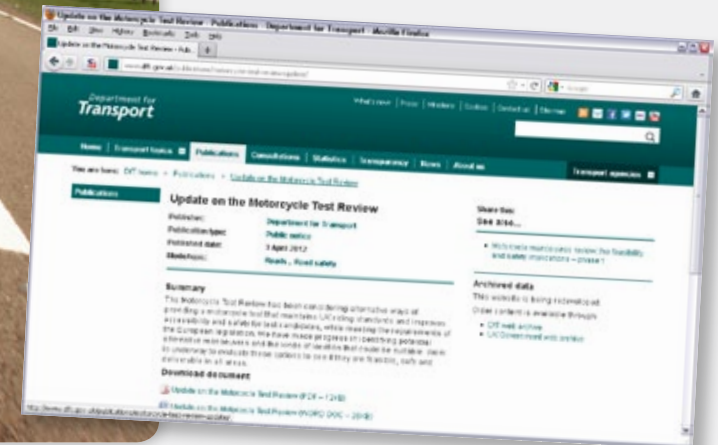
Phase two is now underway and due to finish in the autumn. This consists of on-road trials with experienced riders, to establish feasibility and safety on the road. Subject to these findings, trials will then be carried out with test level candidates.

There will then be a full public consultation before any new arrangements are put in place. The new version of the test could be introduced in 2013 if the outcome of the consultation is positive.

The priority will be to provide on-road testing in areas that don't currently have good access to existing off-road sites. In other areas, existing off-road sites will be used for the new manoeuvres for a transitional period. Single event on-road testing would then be more widely rolled out as more on-road sites are identified.

In the meantime, DSA is making tests more accessible by using local, non-DSA sites on a part time basis. In addition, DSA will offer single event back to back testing in some areas, allowing candidates to take module two immediately after module one if they pass.

For full details see <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/motorcycle-test-review-update/>.



Renewing your ADI registration just got easier

Renew online and save time

You can now give DSA permission to use your photocard driving licence photo for your approved driving instructor (ADI) certificate. This makes renewing your ADI registration quicker and easier than ever before.

You'll be able to complete your application online and not send anything in by post.

- Renew your ADI registration online <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/renewadi>
- Watch a video about how to log in to the online service <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAB964530D9007F73>

When you are logged in you can tick a box to give DSA permission to use your photo.

If you don't have a photocard licence

If you don't have a photocard licence, or don't want DSA to use your photocard licence photo, you'll have to send a recent passport sized photo to DSA. You'll also have to print out your application form and send it with your photo.

- Apply online to swap your paper driving licence for a photocard driving licence at http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/Motoringtransactions/BeforeyouapplyADG_066954



How to renew your registration

Your registration as an ADI lasts for four years. Before it runs out, you can apply for registration for another four-year period.

You'll need to get a criminal record disclosure before you apply for renewal.

When you renew, you must satisfy the ADI Registrar that you meet the conditions to be an ADI. You must not have failed a check test, or have refused to take one.

- Read more about renewing your ADI registration at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1082137100&type=RESOURCES>

Lesley Young - the new chief driving examiner

Lesley Young has recently taken on the role of chief driving examiner at DSA following Trevor Wedge's retirement. She talks to Despatch about how the role is changing and what it will mean for the driver and rider training industries

Tell us a bit about your background

I joined the Department for Transport as an examiner in 1985 after stints as a police officer and driving instructor. I started out at the Clifton test centre in Bristol, and have since held various roles within DSA, from supervising examiner (ADI) and sector manager to staff instructor, and most recently deputy chief driving examiner.



Why is the role changing?

The role of the chief driving examiner has always been about ensuring the quality of the test, and that will continue to be my primary focus. What's changing is that I now have responsibility for the management of all driving examiners, which was not something that the chief driving examiner did before.

That's a huge remit, but it's important to help ensure that examiners have a clear line management structure.

What does this mean for the training industry?

I will still be in contact with the training industry, and as a board member I'll still be closely involved with DSA's work to modernise

driver and rider training. But my focus is clearly going to be more internal, on the management of driving examiners and the quality of the service we give to customers. Rider and driver trainers now have a dedicated team of their own - the Regulation, Standards and Development team. We of course work very closely and my team will continue be involved in developing the modernisation proposals.

What are your priorities for the year?

My biggest priority is providing the best possible customer service, and we need to do that work as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. My focus is on giving a first class service and building a really strong management team in the field.

DSA's new Regulation, Standards and Development team is responsible for upholding driving and riding standards and for the strategic development of learning, training and assessment. The team is temporarily being headed up by the new ADI Registrar Mark Magee. Look out for an interview with Mark in the next issue of Despatch.



Changes to driving licence rules in Great Britain

New measures coming into force on 19 January 2013

Measures to boost safety for motorcyclists and lorry and bus drivers have been put forward in Parliament.

The measures - which also strengthen requirements for driving examiners and impact on the rules for drivers towing trailers - will come in to force on 19 January 2013 as part of new European requirements aimed at improving road safety.

The main aspects of the new rules are:

Motorcyclists - access to more powerful bikes will be staged according to competence, age and previous experience. The minimum age to ride the largest bikes without previous experience will rise from 21 to 24.

Licence renewals for bus and lorry drivers - from 2013, all new/renewed bus and lorry licences will be renewable every five years. Drivers over 45 will still need a full medical report whilst those under 45 will need to confirm that they meet the medical standards.

Driving examiners - new rules will enhance DSA's existing requirements on compulsory initial qualification, periodic training and quality assurance checks.

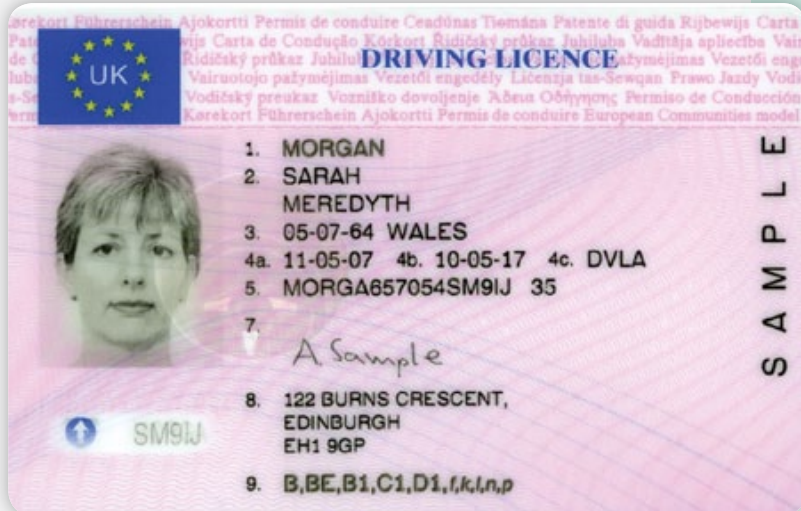
Trailer towing - under the new rules, car drivers will be limited to towing 3.5 tonnes.

Age restrictions - there will be some changes to the age at which some vehicles can be driven.

There will also be a new style of driving licence. Full details about the changes can be found at direct.gov.uk/Motoring/DriverLicensing.

“Britain already has some of the safest roads in the world. These changes build on our existing standards and recognise the importance of our examiners’ professionalism. They will also help to ensure that new motorcyclists gain the right skills and experience before riding bigger bikes”

Rosemary Thew
DSA chief executive



A round up of this month's news

Smaller reversing area for bus, lorry and car and trailer tests

DSA introduced a smaller size manoeuvring area for the 'S' shaped reverse exercise in large goods vehicle (LGV), passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) and car and trailer or caravan (B+E) practical tests on 26 March. The new area measures 66m x 11m, compared to the previous 92m x 18m.

Trials have shown that the smaller area requires the same level of skill and judgement, doesn't make the test harder and maintains the integrity of the test.

Charles Morton, ADI Registrar retires

After 10 years with DSA, the last five as ADI Registrar, Charles Morton retired at the end of March. Looking back, Charles said: "Without doubt the last 10 years in DSA have been some of the most enjoyable and rewarding of my career - especially those as ADI Registrar. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with you over the years." The new ADI Registrar is Mark Magee.

Arrive in good time for the test

DSA has recorded a rise in the number of candidates arriving late for their test. If candidates arrive late they may not be able to take their test and risk losing their test fee. DSA is therefore asking ADIs to do all they can to make sure their candidates arrive at the test centre ready to take the test at the appointed time.

New corporate facebook page launched

DSA has launched a corporate facebook page called 'Driving Standards Agency (DSA)'. The page will contain information such as press releases, business plans and general news. This replaces the 'Trevor Wedge, chief driving examiner' page.

To 'like' the page and get all the latest news and information, please go to www.facebook.com/dsagovuk.

Get in touch

For the latest DSA news and information visit dft.gov.uk/dsa

Information and services for candidates: direct.gov.uk/drivingtest

Information and services for driver and rider trainers: businesslink.gov.uk/adi

Contact details for DSA: dft.gov.uk/dsa/about/contact

What do you think of this issue of Despatch ezine? Email your comments to pressoffice@dsa.gsi.gov.uk



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