

**Gravesend test centre was closed some time ago but rumours (some from sources within DSA) have circulated that tests may be conducted at Gravesend from remote locations.**

**1) Can you tell me if this is the case and when we may expect tests to return to Gravesend please?**

We do not hold any information about driving tests returning to Gravesend.

Road Safety Minister Mike Penning asked DSA to look at taking tests closer to the customer; to provide service in areas where there was significant demand but no local test centre.

A national trial to explore a new approach to test delivery was launched in May 2011. As well as using conventional driving test centres, DSA is looking at delivering tests from other sites such as local authority buildings, leisure centres or hotels.

DSA is currently running trials in eight locations across the country. The trials are being monitored to assess any impact on levels of customer service and the cost of delivery, as well as making sure the integrity of the test is maintained.

**2) If this were to happen, how do clients book a test that is not at a test centre?**

Bookings can be made using our normal online service. Information about making a booking can be found on our website at [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/LearnerAndNewDrivers/PracticalTest/DG\\_186585](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/LearnerAndNewDrivers/PracticalTest/DG_186585).

This information is, therefore, exempt from release under section 21 (information accessible by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act. A full breakdown of this exemption can be found at Annex B.

**Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means**

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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