

Before debating the issue of the plans to not allow theory test candidates to sit their theory test in any of the 19 languages, the DSA needs to publish some evidence:

1) We are told the 800 drivers have had their licences revoked over the past two years after apparently being 'coached' by translators allowed to sit in on the theory test to explain the questions. Have 800 translators been involved in this racket or is it just a small number of fraudsters?

We have removed nine theory test translators from the DSA approved list in the last two years. For information, the process of becoming a translator is as follows:

1. A fully completed application form is submitted to Pearson VUE, our theory test provider
2. References provided are checked and verified
3. Qualifications are verified as meeting required standard
4. ID card with photo is produced which is valid for one year

This ID card must be presented on every occasion that they attend a test centre. Failure to produce will result in them being refused admission. All tests are monitored by audio and CCTV. The audio can be checked to ensure that the translator did not give any additional information, and that the translation was accurate.

2) What languages were involved?

The following translator languages were involved:

- Arabic
- Amharic
- Croatian
- Kurdish
- Polish
- Romanian
- Serbo Croat
- Tigrinya

3) Was there any fraud by people sitting their theory tests using headphones in the 19 languages approved by the DSA?

I can confirm that we have records of fraud being committed by people sitting their theory tests using headphones in one or more of the 19 voiceover languages approved by DSA.

Information provided in response to questions one to three is correct as of 28 February 2012.

4) What percentage of non-English speaking drivers do not understand road signs?

5) How many of these have passed their test in the UK in their own language?

6) By what degree, if at all, are non-English speaking drivers who have passed the UK driving test more dangerous than English speakers? (Flashing red signs above

a motorway are a recognisable signal to slow down and be cautious even if you can't read the reason why).

We do not hold any information to be able to answer questions four to six.

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