

**1) Were any car practical tests cancelled at Aberdeen (Balgownie Road) driving test centre (DTC) or Aberdeen multi-purpose test centre (MPTC) on 18 February 2010 due to bad weather?**

I can confirm that no car practical tests were cancelled on 18 February 2010 at Aberdeen (Balgownie Road) DTC due to bad weather.

I can also confirm that all the car practical tests up to the 1.03pm test slots on 18 February 2010 at Aberdeen MPTC were cancelled due to bad weather. The car practical tests from the 1.03pm test slot weren't cancelled due to bad weather.

**2) General information as to the criteria/procedure followed which may lead to a car practical test being cancelled due to bad weather.**

At Annex B, you can find an extract from the DT2 (standard operating procedure for test centre managers) on the instructions to follow in adverse weather. Below, you can also find further information from our technical support team on car practical tests being cancelled due to bad weather.

The main reasons driving tests are cancelled due to bad weather are because of snow, ice, fog, or high winds (which mainly affect motorcycle tests) adversely affecting the safe use of driving test routes.

Occasionally bad light can affect the conduct of tests; driving test regulations require candidates to read a number plate in 'good day light' - occasionally some candidates have problems reading a number plate and if this is attributed to poor daylight, the test will be cancelled.

In poor weather conditions the test centre manager (TCM) normally makes the decision whether to cancel tests; this decision is based on health & safety considerations and an assessment of the risks posed to the candidate, examiner and other road users if tests went ahead - safety considerations are paramount.

The driving test has to be a fair assessment of every candidate's driving - certain types of adverse weather conditions may impose disproportionate burdens on test candidates. An assessment will also be made as to whether it will also be safe and viable to conduct the statutory manoeuvres required by driving test regulations. Consideration will be given to the fact that driving test candidates are normally novice drivers.

The TCM will continue to monitor test routes to enable an informed decision, based on safety considerations, to be made as to when it is safe to restart testing.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents supplied by the Driving Standards Agency will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see The National Archives website - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/uk-gov-licensing-framework.htm> .

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the Intellectual Property Office's website at [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk).