

## ATF FORUMS – MAY 2014

We are pleased to announce the next set of regional ATF Forums for 2014.



The timings are confirmed for 6:30pm to 9:30pm in May, at locations across the network. You can find a complete list at the end of this article.

We will be in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, on 8 May to open a new ATF and will be holding a special forum there this year for the benefit of local operators. We are managing bookings for this forum separately, so Stornoway won't appear on our main list.

Our Chief Operating Officer for Vehicles and Enforcement, Alex Fiddes, will be on hand at this year's ATF Forums to update you on the Next Generation Testing pilot currently running in South Wales – a more flexible service that provides testing outside of our normal working hours. Alex will also be talking about ADR and dangerous goods testing, changes to testing procedures and will hold a question-and-answer session at the end of each forum, to give you the chance to discuss your ideas and concerns in the open.

To find out more about how we're developing commercial vehicle testing, share best practice or put your question to our experts, book your place at an ATF Forum near you now.

### Book your place

To reserve your place, click on the location that suits you best and follow the on-screen instructions:

- ▶ [6 May, Leeds](#)
- ▶ [12 May, Heathrow](#)
- ▶ [20 May, Cardiff](#)
- ▶ [28 May, Liverpool](#)
- ▶ [7 May, Glasgow](#)
- ▶ [19 May, Exeter](#)
- ▶ [27 May, Birmingham](#)
- ▶ [29 May, Ipswich](#)

Email [movingon@vosa.gov.uk](mailto:movingon@vosa.gov.uk) if you have any questions about booking a place at an ATF Forum.

## ATF progress

We began this year with a huge boost to our network of ATFs, when in January we opened both the most northerly ATF at Northwards Ltd, Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, and the 400th ATF at HTC Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

Over 76 per cent of all tests are now carried out at the 417 private sites away from our own test stations.

Northwards Commercial Director, Neil Leslie, is pleased to enter into partnership with Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), saying:

"I look forward to offering an enhanced service to transport operators in the Shetland Isles and see this as a natural fit with our workshop facilities."

Peter Gibbons, Aftersales Director of the HTC Group, said:

"The growth of HTC Hemel has been incredible but now that we can offer this additional service, the sky is most certainly the limit."

Alastair Peoples presented HTC Hemel Hempstead with a certificate to commemorate its official opening as the 400th ATF, and said:



"ATF customers from across the country tell me they have seen savings on fuel costs, vehicle down-time, lower CO2 emissions and improved first-time pass rates and I fully expect to hear similar feedback from operators and drivers using this facility.

"Open access at the Northwards site will make it even easier for drivers and operators in the local area to access testing facilities. I am proud of the ATF record so far and I know local drivers and operators will benefit from the service provided by their new ATF."

We at DVSA are looking forward to welcoming new ATFs on board this year and to seeing you all in person at the ATF Forums this summer.

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## Access your pre-funded account online

Did you know that you can access your pre-funded account online, to view the current balance and make instant payments with debit and credit cards?

Email [webbookings@vosa.gov.uk](mailto:webbookings@vosa.gov.uk) to register for online access to your account, or for help and support.



## Testing – the next generation

After many months of careful planning, we have launched the Next Generation Testing (NGT) pilot in South Wales, Hereford and parts of the Midlands. The first Vehicle Standards Assessors and Specialist Vehicle Standards Assessors have begun work and we're now testing NGT concepts in a live environment.



Next Generation Testing is the next step in our plan to make vehicle testing even easier for our customers. It includes:

- ▶ flexible working between 6am and 10pm Monday to Friday and until 8pm on Saturdays
- ▶ an automated scheduling system to deploy our staff in the most effective and efficient way
- ▶ support for our testing staff, whatever time of day they are examining vehicles

All ATFs operating within pilot network will have their tests conducted by NGT staff.

NGT Chief Operating Officer Steve Jordan says it is the start of something special:

"NGT is a modern and innovative new design for the delivery of bus, coach and truck roadworthiness testing in the UK.

"With testing mainly carried out away from DVSA at privately-owned testing facilities, we're creating a modern, flexible and customer-focused service that meets customer needs now and in the future."

Over the next 6 months we will gather and analyse feedback from ATFs, customers and our staff themselves to evaluate the success of the pilot and discover what lessons may be learned.



Email [ngtqueries@vosa.gov.uk](mailto:ngtqueries@vosa.gov.uk) for further information about Next Generation Testing.

# Update to heavy vehicle timing exercise

In December we told you about our work re-timing the heavy vehicle annual test, when we also took the opportunity to time the passenger vehicle annual test. Our analysis of the results means that we will implement revised average test guide times for all tests taking place after 1 July 2014.

It is important to understand that these are guide times that cover a range of vehicles in a variety of conditions. As such, you can use these as a guide for scheduling and planning rather than as an absolute measure.

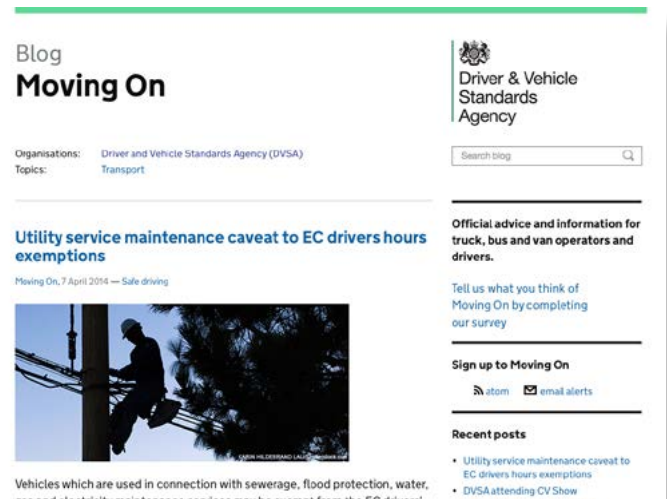
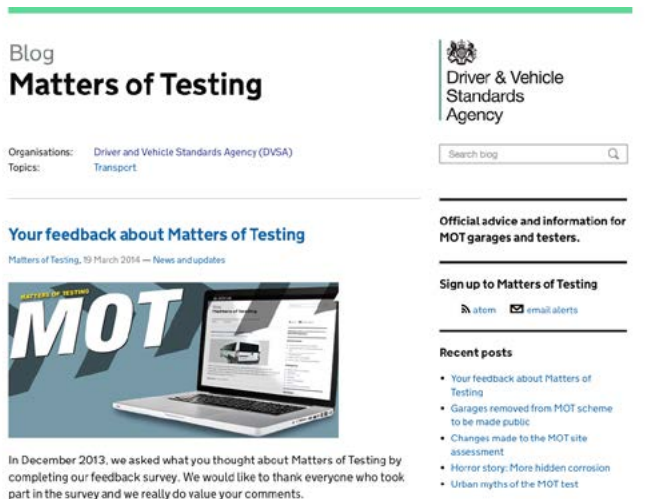
The impact these new guide times will have on your business will depend on the mix of vehicles that you test at your ATF. This change will not impact on the fair usage policy or the retain fees calculations. Your local Testing Manager will be able to give you further guidance and deal with any questions that you may have.

We will publish the new guide times on GOV.UK - make sure you're signed up to [DVSA Direct's ATF Administration topic](#) to be alerted when it goes live.

## Stay up to date with DVSA

Did you know that DVSA run 2 blogs on GOV.UK to keep our customers up to date with the latest compliance tips and the services we provide?

[Matters of Testing](#) gives official advice and information for MOT garages and testers, while [Moving On](#) makes sure that commercial vehicle drivers and fleet operators are up to date with the latest rules and regulations for heavy vehicles.



But you don't have to remember to browse through the articles every day – you can sign up to get a free email reminder linking you to the latest articles. Stay on top of the latest information affecting your business – sign up to Moving On and Matters of Testing through our free email alerts service, [DVSA Direct](#).

