

Equality duty screening

Name of the function, policy or strategy: DTC – GVTS STRATEGY. RELOCATION OF Wick DTC to Wick GVTS							Current or proposed: CURRENT	
Person completing the assessment: NICOLA STOKOE							Date of assessment: 15 SEPT 2014	
Purpose of the function, policy or strategy: EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF DVSA ESTATE following the merger of the DSA and VOSA								
Questions: indicate yes / no / not known for each group	Age	Gender	Disability	Gender re-assignment	Pregnancy and Maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sexual orientation
Is there any indication or evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues or priorities in relation to the particular function, policy or strategy?	NO	NO	YES	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	YES	NOT KNOWN
Is there potential for or evidence that, this function, policy or strategy may adversely affect equality of opportunity for all and may harm good relations between different groups?	NO	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN
Is there any potential for or evidence that, any part of the proposed function, policy or strategy could discriminate, directly or indirectly?	NO	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN
Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy/service or function or working with other government departments or the wider community?	NO	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN
Is there any evidence or indication of higher or lower uptake by different groups?	YES	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN
Are there any physical or social barriers to participation/access (e.g. language, format, physical access/proximity)?	NO	NO	YES	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NO	NO	NOT KNOWN

Equality duty screening

Comments – if you have answered ‘yes’ to any of the boxes above please detail what the equality issues are and what actions are being taken.

Disability

DVSA does not universally capture details of the candidate disability so the impact on the PCG is not fully known however it is reasonable to say that customers and staff within this PCG will have differing needs relating to access to the test centre’s facilities.

It is possible for candidates to notify DVSA of their disability prior to attending test. This enables those customers to still receive the service at locations where fully compliant access was not reasonably practical to achieve. This practice will continue unchanged.

It should be noted that Wick GVTs differs from the current test centre in its provision of DDA compliant facilities. Currently Wick test centre provides customers with a wheelchair accessible toilet whereas the GVTs building does not. The current test centre has stepped access but the staff who work there provide a portable ramp when they are aware there will be a requirement, which will provide the candidate with access to the waiting room. This will not be possible at the GVTs as in addition to the lack of DDA compliant toilet facilities, the waiting room and lobby area are also not compliant.

Although this is a negative impact for those customers attending the new driving test centre where they will no longer be able to access the waiting room or the toilet it should also be noted that the numbers of candidates requiring DDA compliant facilities is likely to be low. In addition, the lack of DDA toilets or DDA access will not prevent these candidates from taking a driving test at Wick. It is, however, important to ensure the situation is managed appropriately. Therefore candidates will be made aware of the set up at the new test centre prior to attending their test with information provided on their appointment notification. The examiner will also meet the candidate at their car, as is the usual practice where compliant access cannot be achieved. This situation will be monitored and should issues arise DVSA will consider making changes, where practicable.

Facilities for the staff at Wick are similar in that they are not DDA compliant however the site has been assessed by operational management and no issues were raised regarding access or use of facilities for the staff that will be working there.

There is no reason or evidence to suggest that the location or journey to the new test centre location will prove to be any more/less problematic for persons with a disability.

Religion and Belief

As with the previous section, DVSA do not capture details of this protected characteristic when booking or taking a test. As a result, it is difficult to assess the impact on this PCG although we can draw some conclusions using the data available from the 2011 census (Annex A).

Equality duty screening

According to the 2011 census the percentage of Muslims within the Highlands council area is 0.3% which is very low compared to other areas of the country. There are other religions and beliefs but none of which are considered to require special accommodations on test or at the test centre.

Although there is no statutory requirement to provide prayer facilities for staff or customers, where staff or customers are representative of a religion or belief that results in a regular requirement to pray, DVSA seeks to accommodate this through the use of a designated room or area in the test centre, where possible. In the case of the new centre at Wick GVTs there are no examiners who require this facility.

DVSA's RACE group has commented on the lack of prayer facilities for customers at new sites. Due to the comparatively low percentage of Muslim customers in this locality, there is not considered to be a requirement or justification for such a facility in this centre. However, should such a facility for prayers be requested by customers in the future, DVSA will seek to accommodate such requests on a local level, where possible.

There is no reason or evidence to suggest that the location or journey to the new test centre location will prove to be problematic for any particular religion or belief group.

Age

From those statistics captured from 2013, the ages of the customers attending Montrose test centre ranged from 16 – 61+. Approximately 67% of these customers were aged between 17 and 23 years old with approximately 0.9% aged over 60 years old (**Appendix B**). Despite the skew towards younger customers this is the market that DVSA serves and is largely representative of the customer base nationally. The fact that there will be no change in the customer base means that there will be no impact on this PCG. It is also worth noting that all customers, irrespective of age, must have access to an appropriate vehicle for test purposes and therefore there is no reason or evidence to suggest that one particular age group would be less able to comply with a requirement to take a test from the new location.