

Car driver training and testing forum: September 2025

Date: Wednesday 24 September, 10am to 3.30pm

Location: Millenium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Participants:

Representatives from DVSA's operational, policy, enforcement and communications teams.

Representatives from AA, MSA GB, DIA, ADINJC, RED, Bill Plant, Better Driver Training, Innovative Driving Education Academy and LDC.

Meeting summary

- **Introduction and agenda:** DVSA welcomed participants and outlined the agenda for the day, with a focus on gratitude for the continued patience, support and engagement of attendees.
- **Driving test waiting times and examiner recruitment:** DVSA updated on the ongoing challenges with driving test waiting times, examiner recruitment and retention, highlighting the impact of high demand, recruitment efforts, and the need for partnership with stakeholders to address these issues. The average national driving test waiting times for August 2025 was 22.5 weeks.
- **Driving instructor qualification and standards:** DVSA and participants discussed the challenges in the driving instructor qualification process, including high application rates, low pass rates for Part 3, and the need to update the code of practice and improve support for trainees and sponsors.
- **Communications framework and stakeholder engagement:** DVSA updated on a new communications framework to support the learning to drive a car service, developed in consultation with industry stakeholders, to support

strategic objectives such as reducing waiting times, protecting the profession, and improving road safety, with an emphasis on evidence-based messaging, consistent core messaging and partnership working.

- **Collaborative workstreams and action planning:** All participants divided into three workstream groups, 'Reduce waiting times', 'Make roads safer' and 'Protect the profession' and completed a group exercise to determine interdependencies and responsibilities for DVSA, ADI associations and driving schools. Following this, an implementation plan for each workstream was discussed based on short-, medium- and long-term goals.
- **Next steps:** DVSA thanked all attendees for engaging in the group exercises and advised of next steps including setting up the first meetings for the workstream groups.

Actions

- **Monthly bulletin launch guidance:** Obtain further guidance from DfT regarding the start date and content for the monthly bulletin to ADIs based on survey feedback. (DVSA)
- **Communications teams collaboration:** Set up meetings between forum members' communications teams and DVSA comms teams to discuss collaboration and communication channels. (DVSA)
- **Workstream plan on a page and first meeting:** Develop a plan on a page for each workstream to share with forum members to review and set up the first meeting for each workstream. (DVSA)
- **Shared document space:** Investigate the use of SharePoint or alternative shared spaces for document sharing among forum members. (DVSA)
- **Review of ADI code of practice:** Forum members to send any suggestions for updating the ADI code of practice to DVSA External Affairs. DVSA and NASP to then draft an updated version of the code to share with all forum members for review. (All)
- **Communications framework feedback:** Share draft communications framework with forum members for review and feedback to ensure they reflect ADI perspectives. (DVSA)