

Car driver training and testing forum: January 2026

Date: Thursday 29 January, 10am to 3pm

Location: Holiday Inn, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3LE

Participants:

- Representatives from DVSA's operational, policy and communications teams.
- Representatives from AA, MSA GB, DIA, ADINJC, RED, Bill Plant, Better Driver Training, Innovative Driving Education Academy, LDC and Disability Driving Instructors.

Meeting summary

- **Introduction of new CEO:** DVSA updated on the new CEO, Beverley Warmington, her Civil Service background, and her priorities to reduce driving test waiting times, manage supply and demand and increase examiner recruitment.
- **National Audit Office report:** DVSA summarised the findings of the National Audit Office's report on driving test wait times, published in December 2025, and plans to increase transparency by making more data publicly available, including localised wait times.
- **DfT Road Safety Strategy and minimum learning period consultation:** The group discussed the recently published road safety strategy, highlighting the consultation on a minimum learning period before booking a driving test. DIA raised concerns about the lack of focus on trainer standards in the strategy, and DVSA urged forum members to complete the consultation.

- **Driving test demand, supply, and wait times analysis:** DVSA presented detailed data on driving test demand, examiner recruitment, and wait times, explaining the challenges in reducing the backlog, regional variations, and the impact of overtime and recruitment initiatives.
- **Changes to the driving test booking system:** DVSA outlined upcoming changes to the driving test booking system, including limiting test swaps and changes from six to two, requiring learner drivers to book their own tests, and restricting location changes, all aimed at reducing third-party exploitation and improving fairness.
- **Driver Services Platform (DSP):** DVSA updated on the DSP project, detailing the replacement of the 20-year-old TARS system, integration requirements, phased rollout plans, and the aim to improve flexibility and user experience for all stakeholders.
- **Ready to Pass? campaign:** DVSA updated on the upcoming paid media to target learners and parents, especially those using third-party booking systems, to support changes to the booking system. DVSA will provide webinars and free resources for ADIs to help them support pupils, including guidance on managing test availability and understanding the new booking rules.
- **ADI service update:** DVSA updated on the ADI register, the code of practice review, the transition to a new DBS check provider, examiner recruitment and a review of the EDI 21T form.
- **Results from the 'Working as an ADI' industry survey:** DVSA presented key findings from the ADI industry survey conducted in October 2025, highlighting ongoing challenges with test availability. The full survey report will be published on GOV.UK in February 2026.

Actions

- **Code of practice review:** Forum members to provide any feedback on the code of practice and its crossover with the register guide to DVSA External Affairs.
- **DBS checks transition communications:** DVSA to share advance communications and guidance for the new DBS check provider (CBS) with forum members ahead of the 2 March 2026 go-live date to allow timely content updates.
- **ADI 21T form feedback:** DVSA to trial the revised ADI 21T form with forum members as early adopters and gather feedback on its suitability for different business models.
- **ADI newsletter:** DVSA to progress work on the monthly bulletin to ADIs using data and dashboards from the driver wait times initiative performance pack.

