

NASP UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

Here's the latest monthly update on activity undertaken by the National Associations Strategic Partnership on behalf of the industry. For further updates and access to a host of useful information and resources please also visit <http://www.n-a-s-p.co.uk>

Waiting rooms back open

A number of waiting rooms across the UK are now back open – just in time for the Winter cold snap.

DVSA previously struggled to open waiting rooms across the board due to the challenges of ensuring social distancing (and need to limit exposure for all users to COVID-19), staffing challenges, and the issue at some test centres that waiting rooms are being pressed into service as extra office space to allow staff to socially distance.

NASP raised the issue frequently and asked for a clearer line of sight on when waiting rooms may reopen, as trainers were already starting to be left out in the cold as Autumn arrived.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have also written to DVSA highlighting that the failure to provide adequate sanitary facilities and waiting spaces to customers (and what HSE deems as 'workers' in this context, i.e. trainers), is contrary to health and safety legislation and regulation.

28 waiting rooms were opened across Great Britain in November and a further 93 waiting rooms opened on Friday 4 December. The [full list of waiting rooms](#) and their status is available on GOV.UK.

Further to many questions and concerns from instructors about procedure at waiting rooms that are now open, we asked DVSA for some clarity on expected procedures. DVSA were kind enough to supply us with the slides their TCMs use where possible to inform local instructors, we have attached them with this update. Read them [here](#).

The slides are, mainly for England and Wales, the conditions will be the same in Scotland with more distance between seating and less occupancy. These conditions will apply as more waiting rooms are open.

NASP Advice on training in a tiered lockdown

Here's our latest advice on current lockdown restrictions and how they impact testing and training. NASP will continue to follow up with DVSA for the latest updates.

NASP Guidance

- Check GOV.UK frequently and for DVSA Direct updates for the latest advice
- Check local council and regional authority websites for more detailed guidance in lockdowns in your area as local and regional authorities may have different advice and approaches for their area.
- Testing and training has resumed in all tiers in England but those living in, or entering, a Tier 3 area for their must appraise themselves of the additional measures required in their area
- Tier 3 measures driver testing measures include the right to refuse a practical test or ADI assessment if the candidate is exempt from wearing a face mask and a volunteer Examiner cannot be found
- Trainers should continue to take every measure to mitigate the risk of exposure and infection as advised in the NASP Guidelines on driver trainers safely returning to work (2nd July 2020) and available from the NASP [website](#)
- At all times consider the risks of continuing to train, and take a risk management based approach to training, considering both regional and central government advice
- If you live outside of a Tier 3 area, consider whether you should be mitigating the risks of working in areas impacted at this time as you could expose yourself to infection, or risk encouraging the spread of infection
- If you live and work within a Tier 3 area consider whether you should be travelling in and out of these area frequently

Other useful information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-theory-tests>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-driving-tests-and-theory-tests>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-restarting-driver-and-rider-training-and-tests>

ADI qualification tests and standards checks in England

ADI Part 1 tests

ADI part 1 tests will continue as usual in all tiers.

Areas in tier 1 and 2

DVSA will continue to provide part 2 and 3 tests whilst supporting the agency with reducing driving test waiting times, ADI Part 2 and 3 tests and standards checks within tiers 1 and 2, have already resumed.

The agency will be contacting anyone whose part 2 or 3 test was cancelled as a result of the pandemic to rearrange it in tier 1 and 2 areas and has said they will endeavour to carry out all the part 2 and 3 tests booked in December in tier 1 and 2 areas.

Areas in tier 3

From 3 December anyone who has a ADI part 2, part 3 or standards check booked in a tier 3 area who is exempt from wearing a face covering may have to delay their test or check until the area moves out of tier 3.

DVSA will reschedule tests and checks if we cannot find a volunteer driving examiner to conduct the test without the candidate wearing a face covering.

Part 1 Expiring You do not need to worry if your part 1 pass has expired or is due to expire as long as you already had a part 3 test booked. DVSA will still carry out your test.

If you fail your test and your Part 1 pass has expired, you will need to apply to restart the qualification process. Before you do you will need to obtain an up-to-date Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check which is no older than 6 months.

Scotland & Wales the same criteria should be used when moving between levels in Scotland or tiers in Wales

[For more information visit GOV.UK.](https://www.gov.uk)

Standard checks

DVSA will continue to risk assess and prioritise standards checks for ADIs who are not meeting the standard in England, Wales and Scotland.

To enable ADI examiners to spend 50% of their time carrying out driving tests DVSA will be cancelling all routine standards checks.

If you have booked a routine standards check the agency will email you to confirm if your standards check has been cancelled.

Sharing our updated test guidance

DVSA have made updates to our procedure for carrying out ADI qualifications tests and standards checks. NASP has published the [updated guidance on their website](#) where it is available for you to view.

NASP also produced a handy video demonstrating the COVID compliant procedures now in place for ADI assessments and a walkthrough presentation. These are also available on the NASP website.

Asking the questions and seeking the solutions

Each week (and often daily), as the first tier stakeholder to DVSA for the industry - and other government agencies whose work impacts our members -we upload a tonne of questions and queries, and seek clarifications on other key issues from the regulator.

Keep your feedback, questions and queries coming through to your respective associations so NASP can ensure they are highlighted where it matters most and push for answers or solutions.

A video of our latest Q&A session with DVSA is available here where we grill them on why communications came out so late for the return to training and testing, was it really sensible to open up slots on 2nd December (leaving people little time to take advantage of them), what will happen with ADI assessments, will Examiners be vaccinated and why aren't theory test certificates being extended?

Watch the video [here](#).

New Chief rides into town at DVSA

Loveday Ryder has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and will be starting her new role on 1 January 2021.

Her most recent the role having been the CEO of a digital solutions provider to government agencies, Loveday previously spent 12 years in the Ministry of Justice, where she successfully served in several senior roles in organisation design, change management and programme delivery.

We look forward to meeting the new Chief Executive in the New Year, but in the meantime NASP wishes present DVSA CEO Gareth Llewellyn the best of luck for the future and thanks him for working to improve stakeholder relations between the agency and the industry.