

15th January 2021

Re Your Ref: MC/324907

Dear Baroness Vere

Thank you for your very quick response, however NASP are most disappointed with it. We know that in the main around 97% of learner drivers take some training with a qualified driving instructor, what would make you think that road safety may be compromised? All of these trainers have road safety at their very core, they will of course make sure before any practical test is undertaken, the client has up to date practical and theoretical knowledge.

You state that this will disappoint some learner drivers, we anticipate this number to be around 130,000 including all from the first lockdown, so this is a bit more than some. These numbers of course don't take account of the thousands of people who are not able to take the test at the moment. Would it not be possible for government to enlist the help of DVSA Approved Driving Instructors to ensure pupils have a good theoretical knowledge and sign off before allowing a candidate to take the practical test?

It seems to NASP that would, almost at a stroke, solve a lot of the issues DVSA are having at the moment and would save thousands of resits. This would allow your Dept. to get to grips with testing after this current lockdown is over, it would also go a long way to help with the accusation that DVSA are only interested in the money. We fully understand MOTs and Theory Testing is under different legislation and that MOTs were extended for six months, we believe this to carry much more of an element of danger than a lapsed theory certificate, we assume your departments do too, as if someone decides to drive their vehicle today with an out of date MOT certificate and the Police stop them, they are liable to a fine and penalty points for non-compliance, surely that proves the importance and difference.

The reason for writing to you in the first place was to ask you as a politician to consider taking steps to make the changes necessary to allow this short-term extension in these extenuating circumstances to stop the disadvantage that thousands of learners are being put through.

Minimising the risk to road safety is all our aim, we in NASP jointly represent thousands of driving instructors and their pupils all across our country, their main aim every day in life is to promote road safety, please reconsider and find a way to help.

Yours Faithfully

Peter Harvey MBE

CC: Carly Brookfield CEO DIA

Lynne Barrie Chair ADINJC