

UPDATE

A. D. I. NEWSLETTER



September 2002

Welcome to the latest edition of *Update*. This *Update* is being published slightly earlier than usual to advise you of the locations for the Hazard Perception Testing seminars which I outlined in the last issue. The finalised dates and venues are included in this paper. An update on the ADI Review, Booking Services Project and MOT2 are also included. I hope that you find the contents of this edition of *Update* both interesting and informative.

ADI REVIEW

Responses to the ADI Review consultation paper have been analysed and a package of proposals has been drawn up. The next step is to obtain the Minister for the Environment's approval for the proposals so as to begin an implementation programme for future action and in some cases changes to legislation.

We had hoped in this edition of *Update* to advise you of the detail of the proposals. However, we cannot pre-empt the Minister's approval of the proposals and this will likely take a few more weeks. We can say however, that the proposals largely reflect the wishes expressed by those who responded. In some cases we are proposing that more work be done and that further consultation take place.

The January *Update* will contain more information about changes but a letter will be sent in the meantime to all those who responded to advise of changes to be made. Any questions regarding this issue can be put to Deirdre Walsh, ADI Review Project Manager at DVTA, Balmoral Road, Belfast, Tel. No. 028 9054 7959 or E-mail to Deirdre.walsh@doeni.gov.uk.

HAZARD PERCEPTION TESTING

Sometime during the next few weeks we expect the Minister to formally announce the date and arrangements for introducing the hazard perception test a new component of the driving theory test.

The last edition of *Update* provided a lot of information about the new test and told you about a series of seminars to be held at the end of September and beginning of October to provide you with additional information about the introduction of the hazard perception test into the driving theory test. The details of the seminars, which are free of charge, have now been finalised and the venues are as follows :

Monday 30 September	Broomhill Hotel, Londonderry
Tuesday 1 October	Ramada Hotel, Belfast
Wednesday 2 October	Mourne Country Hotel, Newry
Thursday 3 October	Leighinmohr Hotel (formerly Hotel One), Ballymena

Monday 7 October Seagoe Hotel, Portadown
Tuesday 8 October Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh

Each of the events will start at 7.00pm

David Leeman and Trevor Watty, both of whom worked extensively on filming the video clips, will explain the background to the test, the arrangements for dealing with the transition and how the new test will be delivered. They will also deal with training issues and illustrate their presentations with a number of training clips.

All registered ADIs who attend one of the seminars will receive a free copy of the complete “Roadsense” training pack. The pack which has been produced by the DSA includes a training video, tutors manual, student workbook and several “flash cards”.

We also plan to make available to each registered ADI a video which explains what candidates can expect when they take the new test. This video will also be free of charge.

The introduction of the hazard perception test has the potential to create both a further business opportunity for ADIs and to reduce the number of deaths on our roads. I hope therefore that you will take this opportunity to learn more about the new test and how you can better prepare candidates for it.

BOOKING SERVICES PROJECT

The new booking system has been installed in the Craigavon test centre and has been operating on a pilot basis since 9 September 2002. The pilot was extended to the Ballymena centre the following week. This is providing an opportunity to test the link with the MOT2 system.

The outcome of these pilots will be assessed at the end of September before a final decision is taken with regard to the roll out to other centres but it is likely that this will get underway during October. The telephone booking services will be introduced as soon as all of the centres have the new system. This is now likely to be sometime in November.

The implementation of the new system should not adversely affect ADIs in the short-term but it will take staff some time to become fully familiar with the new system, particularly as they will have to run both the old and new system for a short period. Once the new system is installed at all centres, however, ADIs should begin to see the benefits of the new system. These include the option to book tests for any centre from any booking office or on the telephone.

MOT2 – DVTA CENTRES ROLLOUT CLOSURES

As you are no doubt aware DVTA’s planned Rollout programme for replacing all vehicle-testing equipment at test centres started at the end of October 2001. The refurbishment will provide a modernized service, placing DVTA at the forefront of vehicle testing in Europe and provide sufficient testing capacity to meet a predicted rise in vehicle tests for the next 17 years.

Armagh, Ballymena and Enniskillen test centres have now re-opened following their temporary closure for the installation of the new equipment, while Belfast and Downpatrick centres are currently closed for vehicle testing. Each of the remaining DVTA test centres will close **temporarily** for about 12 weeks over the next 12 months, including Craigavon centre in October and Londonderry in November but in most cases this will have **little effect on driving tests**, which should in general continue as normal.

Centre refurbishment should have little effect on ADIs. While the remaining centres will close in turn for vehicle testing over the next 12 months, driver testing will in most cases continue as normal, although parking may be more restricted. Centre reception areas will open as usual to deal with vehicle and driving test applications and to provide advice to customers on any problems they may have in obtaining a vehicle test. LGV tests at Craigavon will **continue unaffected** when the centre closes although a decision on LGV driving tests at Londonderry has still to be made.

This article focuses on the effect of centre closures on driving tests. An explanatory leaflet on vehicle tests is being issued to all households in Northern Ireland shortly before their local centre closes, giving further information and advice including how to obtain a vehicle test at an alternative centre if necessary. A dedicated website (www.mot2-ni.gov.uk) and a telephone helpline 0845 6014094 are also available.

R J CROSBY
Registrar