

**From:** ADIOnlineCorrespondence

**Sent:** 28 July 2020 10:56

**Subject:** Correspondence from the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) to the Approved Driving and Motorcycle Instructor Industry on the Resumption of driver testing 28 July 2020

**To all Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) and Approved Motorcycle Instructors (AMIs)**

You will now be aware that Minister Mallon has announced the planned resumption of car and lorry driver testing from 1 September. I know that the last number of weeks have been difficult and challenging for many industry sectors, including your own, as the Executive gradually eased COVID-19 restrictions in line with their Pathway to Recovery plan to allow society and the economy to safely resume activities.

From 20 July, the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) reinstated some driver testing services for those licence categories where testing can be done safely in line with current PHA advice and guidance on social distancing requirements. I am aware of the desire for the resumption of car driving tests in particular and recognise the inconvenience that pupils not being able to take driving tests during this time has caused. Today, the Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon MLA has announced that the DVA intends to resume practical car and lorry driving tests from 1 September 2020, initially prioritising those requests from key workers followed by those customers whose tests were cancelled due to lockdown. We will contact these customers directly to arrange appointments.

Over the next few weeks, the DVA will work with staff and Trade Union side on risk assessments and new standard operating procedures to ensure testing is conducted in line with public health advice and guidance to ensure the safety of candidates, driving instructors and examiners. An information pack for instructors and candidates is also being prepared in advance of tests resuming to help prepare for the new testing process.

We are expecting that there will be a significant demand for driving tests when all services are reinstated and, while we will endeavour to facilitate appointments at the earliest opportunity, it is likely that initial waiting times for driving tests will be longer than usual. However, the recent 8 month extension to the validity of theory test pass

certificates, which expire between 1 March and 31 October 2020 and the 6 month extension to the validity of off-road motorcycle test pass certificates, which expire between 1 March 2020 and 31 August 2020, should help to mitigate the impact of this on customers.

I hope you have found this information useful and we look forward to working with you again to safely resume our driving test services.

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