

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref DPHall006
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/FM/5361/07

Kirsty Williams AM/AC
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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DD/MM/YY

MOTORCYCLE TEST CENTRES IN WALES

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention in Plenary on 13 November and your prompt letter and attachments of 16 November, providing me with more details.

As you appreciate this is a non-devolved matter. However, I have asked Robin Shaw, Head of Transport Wales to write to Rosemary Thew the Chief Executive of the Driving Standards Agency to request a meeting to discuss the issues you raised.

I will write to you again once I have further information.

To: 1. Robin Shaw, Head of Transport Wales
2. First Minister

From: Gill Barker
Transport Planning & Administration 4
Ext 1533

Date: 30 November 2007

[MB/FM/05361/07]
CC: PS First Minister
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OAQ(3)0454(FM) FOLLOW UP – KIRSTY WILLIAMS – MOTORCYCLE TEST CENTRES

Issue

1. During your questions in plenary on 13 November, Kirsty Williams raised a query about the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) proposals to cut the number of motor cycle test centres in Wales from 17 to 4 and her concerns about the distance people will need to travel to take their tests.
2. You agreed to look into it. Plenary extract is attached Doc 2.
3. Kirsty Williams subsequently wrote to you on 16 November with more information about the proposals and her concerns. Letter and attachments at Doc 3.

Background

4. The DSA advise that the new Multi Purpose Testing Centres are about improving overall road safety and reducing road deaths and serious injuries, and that they fit into their overall vision of "Safe Driving for Life".
5. The 'multi-purpose' test centres provision has been developed in response to plans to introduce a new practical motorcycle test involving more demanding special manoeuvres. For road safety reasons the new manoeuvres cannot be carried out on the public highway, and require the creation of a safe off road area.
6. The new practical motorcycle test is being introduced in October 2008 to comply with European legislation, which aims to improve the standard of road safety for motorcycle and moped riders.
7. The Driving Standards Agency have informed us that their decision on where to locate the new Test Centres have been based on the population coverage, the development costs involved and the through-put of tests. More centres can be added in the future should the demand warrant it.
8. These new test centres will not affect the numerous Compulsory Basic Training/re testing facilities.
9. Further detailed information on the proposals is at Doc 4

Recommendations

10. The policy of motor cycle test centres is a non-devolved matter.
11. Kirsty Williams raises a number of valid concerns about the proposals. Robin Shaw, Head of Transport Wales has therefore written to Rosemary Thew, the Chief Executive of the DSA seeking a meeting to discuss these issues. A draft letter for you to send to Kirsty Williams saying this is attached at Doc 1.

Gill Barker
