



DSA ezine for road safety professionals

### Use of foreign languages on driving tests under review

A public consultation has been launched on the use of foreign language voiceovers and interpreters on theory and practical driving tests

DSA is reviewing the level of foreign language support available to driving test candidates. This is in response to concerns raised about potential road safety implications and the risk of fraud, as well as the cost of providing translations.

At the moment, candidates can ask for pre-recorded voiceovers in 19 different languages for the car and motorcycle theory tests. An

approved interpreter can be used if a voiceover isn't available in the required language - and can also be used to translate the examiner's instructions on practical tests.

Candidates have to pay for interpreters themselves but the cost of developing

and updating voiceovers falls to DSA.

There are 4 options:

- removing voiceovers (except English and Welsh) and the use of interpreters on driving tests
- removing voiceovers (except English and Welsh) on the theory test but retaining the use of interpreters on all tests
- removing interpreters on both theory and practical tests but retaining the use of voiceovers on theory tests
- making no change

The consultation runs for 8 weeks, and any changes will be subject to its outcome.

To have your say, go to

[www.gov.uk/bit.ly/DSA32](http://www.gov.uk/bit.ly/DSA32)

**Road Safety Minister,  
Stephen Hammond, said:**

"We want to ensure that all drivers have the right skills to use our roads safely and responsibly. We also want to keep test fees to a minimum for candidates, and I am not convinced that providing translations is the most effective use of resources."



"I hope you will have your say about how we can improve the services we offer you. This consultation is about the Government listening to its customers before agreeing the way forward."

"There is a potential road safety risk of drivers not understanding important traffic updates or emergency information, but allowing interpreters on tests also presents the risk of fraud, for example if they are indicating the correct answers to theory test questions."



## Book tests from your phone

DSA's updated site makes it easier to book tests using smartphones and tablet devices



DSA has launched an updated version of its online practical test booking service at [gov.uk/bookdrivingtest](http://gov.uk/bookdrivingtest).

The service has been brought up to date to make it simpler, clearer and faster. It will now be easier for people to book tests from mobile devices like tablets and smartphones.

Users have described the new system as 'greatly improved' and 'user friendly'.

Other benefits of the new service include:

- not asking for a theory test pass certificate number unless it can't find one on the system
- offering better help so users know what they need to do



Avoid websites that charge extra for booking your test:

Scan this code with your smartphone to take you straight through to the official DSA practical test booking website [www.gov.uk/bookdrivingtest](http://www.gov.uk/bookdrivingtest)



## Keeping your ADI registration up to date

**Don't forget to let DSA know if your details change or you get a caution or conviction**

### Change of name or address

You've got to update your ADI registration within 7 days if you change your name or address.

This is so the ADI Registrar can contact you, for example to invite you to your check test, which you have to take to stay on the register.

### Update your registration

You will need your:

- online user ID from DSA
- password

You can [watch a video](#) about how to log in if you need any help.

### Other things you can do online

You can also use the online service to tell DSA if:

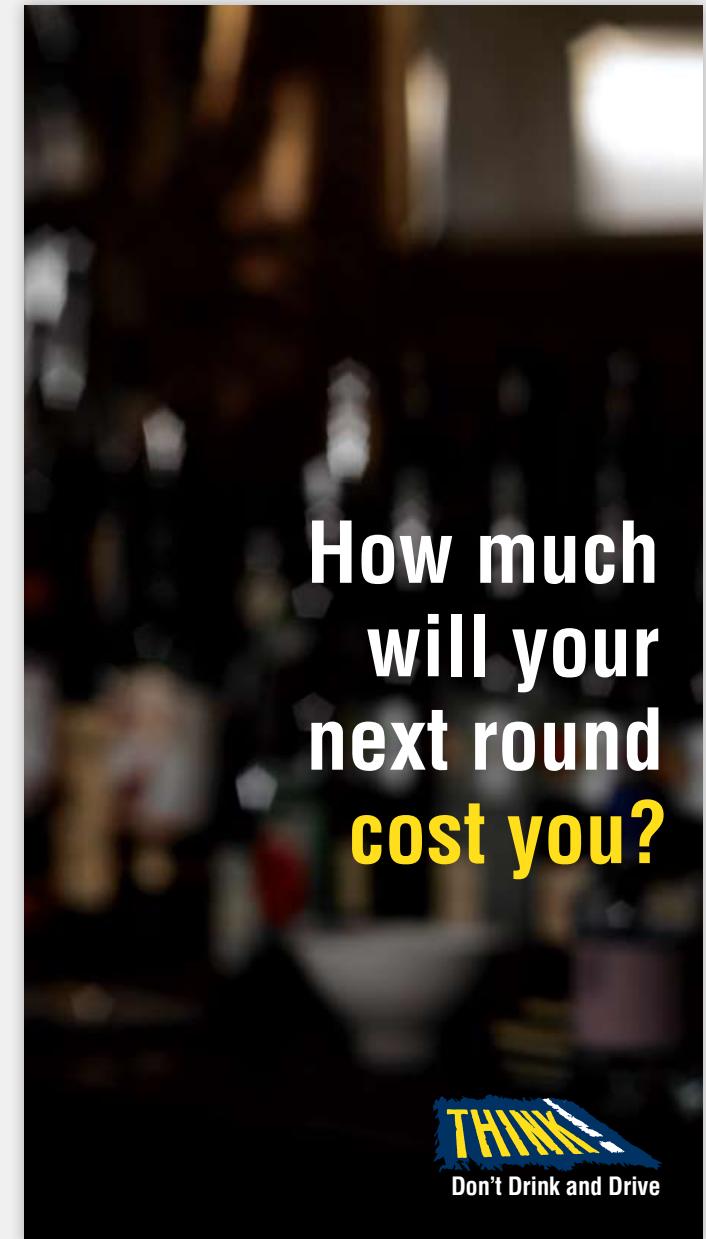
- you agree to the ADI voluntary code of practice and take at least 7 hours of continuing professional development each year
- you want your details published on the 'find your nearest driving instructor' service

By law, you must also tell DSA in writing, within 7 days, if you get any caution or conviction for any motoring or non-motoring offence. This includes:

- being 'bound over'
- having your name entered in the sex offenders' register
- being banned or barred from working with children
- getting a fixed penalty

#### Write to:

Approved Driving Instructor Registrar  
Driving Standards Agency  
The Axis Building  
112 Upper Parliament Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 6LP



## Funding worth £37 million for drivers of plug-in vehicles

Drivers with plug-in vehicles are set to benefit from a funding package for installing charge points for home and on-street charging as well as new charge points for people parking plug-in vehicles at railway stations

The government will provide 75% of charge point installation costs to:

- people installing charge points at their home
- local authorities for:
  - installing rapid charge points to allow longer journeys to be made
  - providing on-street charging for people who have, or have ordered, plug-in vehicles
- train operators installing new charge points at railway stations

The £37 million funding is part of the government's £400 million commitment to increase the uptake of ultra low emission vehicles - and is available until April 2015.

Transport Secretary, Patrick McLoughlin, said: "This investment underlines the government's commitment to making sure that the UK is a world leader in the electric car industry.

"Plug-in vehicles can help the consumer by offering a good driving experience and low running costs. They can help the environment by cutting pollution. And most importantly of all, they can help the British economy by creating skilled manufacturing jobs in a market that is bound to get bigger."

You can find out more on [GOV.UK](#).

The government has also made up to £16.5 million available for research and development (R&D) that will lead to significant reductions in carbon emissions. Grants will be awarded to UK businesses through a new [open competition](#) for R&D funding, which opened on 18 February.



## Test bribery suspects arrested

Examiner and 2 instructors arrested in North London

DSA's Fraud and Integrity team took part in an operation to arrest a driving examiner and two instructors following an investigation into alleged bribery on practical driving tests.

In a joint operation with Metropolitan Police, DSA investigators carried out a raid on a test centre in North London in February. They arrested 1 examiner, with other officers simultaneously arresting 2 driving instructors.

The examiner is suspected of conducting at least 100 fraudulent tests, with candidates paying up to £3,000 a time for a guaranteed pass. Four test candidates have also been arrested, and around 100 licences are now being revoked.



A BBC report of the arrests was broadcast on national news. You can watch the footage on the [BBC website](#).

DSA's Head of Fraud and Integrity, Andy Rice, said afterwards:

"Although rare, when it happens, driving test fraud is a serious offence that puts the lives of innocent road users at risk.

"We have stringent procedures in place to ensure that any fraudulent activity will be detected. As this operation demonstrates, we take all allegations extremely seriously and will work with the police to bring offenders to justice."

If you have any suspicions about driving test fraud, report them to the DSA Fraud and Integrity team on 0115 936 6051 or email [integrity.team@dsa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:integrity.team@dsa.gsi.gov.uk)

**ILLEGAL ACTIVITY REPORT IT!**

**Illegal activity affects us all**

Report any form of illegal activity, including:

- impersonations at practical driving test
- impersonations at theory test
- illegal driving instruction
- illegal motorcycle instruction (CBT/DAS)

Please contact the **Fraud and Integrity team:**

- by phone: **0115 936 6051**
- by email: **Integrity.Team@dsa.gsi.gov.uk**

Driving Standards Agency

**FRAUD**  
SPOT IT STOP IT

## A round up of this month's news

### Driving test stats

The Department for Transport will publish new driver and rider test and instructor statistics for October to December 2012 (Quarter 3) on 28 February 2013.

The rules for **moped and motorcycle licences** changed on 19 January 2013, along with the rules about the moped or motorcycle that can be **used on test**. As a result of these changes, DSA has received a number of requests asking for the number of tests conducted and passed before and after this date.

Statistics showing this information weren't due to be published until June 2013. However, because there's strong public interest in this information, arrangements have been made for their publication on 28 February 2013. You'll find these **stats on GOV.UK** from that date.

### 7% drop in road deaths

The latest road casualty figures (**Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates 2012 Q3**) show there were 1,760 fatalities in the year ending September 2012. This represents a 7 per cent drop from the year ending September 2011.

However, the number of people killed or seriously injured rose to 24,860, a 2% increase compared with the year ending September 2011 (24,473).

### Pay for tests online with confidence

DSA has become a member of the Barclaycard Risk Reduction Programme - a national security programme created to recognise responsible management of the security risks associated with payment card transactions.

To achieve membership, DSA had to fulfil criteria such as:

- **not storing sensitive authentication data**
- **conducting an annual risk assessment in line with the risk reduction programme**
- **carrying out a test to check the level of protection from hackers**

This means that DSA's customers book and pay for their tests using the official test booking site with confidence.

## Get in touch

**The best place to find government services and information is [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**

To find out what's happening inside DSA, visit [www.gov.uk/dsa](http://www.gov.uk/dsa)

What do you think of this issue of Despatch ezine? Email your comments to [pressoffice@dsa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@dsa.gsi.gov.uk)



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