

Notes from Portsmouth TCM 23.10.2013 by Frances Rees

Sheila Ransom started the meeting by requesting can any change of address on driving licences please be completed before coming up for test, as this cuts into the time allocated for each test causing a delay.

Also can any money in the vehicle please be hidden away and not be on show. This can make examiners feel uncomfortable and are not responsible if any would go missing.

The fire door which is always tied open in to the test centre has been agreed to be replaced for one which can be closed, which will make the waiting area a lot warmer in the winter months. A date has not been set for this to be done but when it becomes available it will be announced on the notice board. Please look out for this as access to the building will be restricted resulting in the toilets not being available. (Please ensure candidates are comfortable before coming up for their test).

ADI's will be able to wait inside the building as the other room will be open.

Carpets are also going to be cleaned, this will be carried out on a Friday afternoon, again this will announced when a date has been agreed as access will also be restricted.

Can accompanying ADI's on test please refrain from eating, drinking, rustling papers and texting on mobiles as this is distracting for examiners and candidates.

A response has been received from Highways stating that the Boarhunt Roundabout road markings will be monitored. This is not deemed as urgent as no accident has happened as yet. If they have more complaints made on their website , recorded evidence, written or video (ADI's with in car cameras), this would give more weight to the argument to get them changed.

Any queries about road markings, road signs which are obscured or incorrect please report to this link <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems>
Don't assume somebody else has reported it.

AOB

The question was asked about Eastern Road roundabout approaching from Farlington which lane is preferred for the candidate to approach in as road markings and road signs do not correspond?

Response was either lane as long as it is done safely, but appreciate this is confusing. This has been reported to Highways and is being addressed.

It was stated from the floor that In Fareham Wickham Road, North Hill to Wallington Road, it appears that the speed here may be changing? To be assessed.

Question was asked if on test driving along beside a bus lane and the vehicle in front signals to turn right, emergency vehicles, what do you want the candidates to do? Wait/drive on the road or progress in to the bus lane. This was debated for sometime and the overall consensus was as long as it is done safely. Common sense to be used. If a candidate kept

to the law and didn't enter the bus lane they would not fail for that reason.

Question was asked about the new driver laws which have been in the news lately, when are they likely to come into effect?

These are still being debated and no news as yet.

A reminder of no interpreters allowed on the practical test and theory test will become law from April 2014.

Cameras and phone brackets will be asked to be removed before a test if they are sited over any airbags as if they were to be deployed there is a high risk of injury.

Please do not be offended if asked if in car cameras are turned off before a test. Please state in the test centre before that this is the case.

The DSA do not mind any new technology in the car these days as they consider themselves to be modern and forward thinking and appreciate these gadgets will become commonplace over the next ten years. However if reversing the candidates must still make all round observations and not rely on a screen in the front.

The only technology not allowed on test is 'follow assist' which reduces speed if too close to the vehicle in front.

It was mentioned from the floor that the roundabout at Asda Havant will be changing in the future. Here is a link about this matter, unfortunately I couldn't find a diagram of the proposal.
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hantswebnewslist?id=605732&pagetitle=%A33.7m+to+help+ease+congestion+at+Havant+Roundabout+>

Anne Jackson joined in the meeting for AOB and contributed when applicable.

Next meeting date will be Wednesday 8th January 2014. 12 midday.