



Anna Sabine MP

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Simon Lightwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Roads and Buses)
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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By email only

21st January 2026

Dear Simon

Thank you for your recent response regarding measures being taken to address driving test availability and waiting times.

While I welcome confirmation that steps are being taken to prevent test reselling and to increase capacity through additional examiner availability and overtime schemes, I am concerned that several key issues raised in my original correspondence remain unanswered, particularly in relation to the impact on my constituency and on rural areas more generally.

I would like to see clearer detail on the timescale and specific targets for these urgent improvements, including how and when my constituency can expect to see a meaningful reduction in waiting times. While reference is made to a statutory instrument being laid before Parliament and to additional tests already delivered nationally, there is no indication of how these measures will translate into improved access at a local level.

In addition, my question regarding the potential introduction of additional driving test centres in the region has not been addressed. Given the sustained demand and prolonged waiting times, clarification on whether expanding the number of test centres is being actively considered would be extremely helpful.

I am also disappointed that there was no acknowledgement of the particular challenges faced by learners in rural areas. In many such communities, limited or non-existent public transport means that the inability to secure a timely driving test has far-reaching consequences. Young people in particular are experiencing increased stress and significant financial pressure, alongside delayed access to employment, apprenticeships, and further education. These impacts are disproportionately felt in rural constituencies and warrant specific consideration.

I would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the impact of current driving test availability and waiting times on rural areas, and how policy responses can better reflect these circumstances.

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Urgent and targeted action is needed to ensure that learners, especially young people, are not unfairly disadvantaged by prolonged delays in accessing driving tests. I would be grateful if you could provide further clarification on the points raised above.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Sabine".

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