



Department
for Transport

Councillor David Mullen
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Dear Councillor Mullen,

Thank you for your letter of 17 February to the Secretary of State about Steeton driving test centre (DTC). I am replying as the Minister responsible for the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

The DVSA is aware of the situation at Steeton DTC that arose from a housing development scheme where it was assumed a footpath would be routed from the development through to the driving test centre site. I understand this was not discussed with the DVSA (formerly Driver Standards Agency) at the time.

Although the DVSA has its testing duties to carry out at the test centre, the site is freehold and there are no rights for third parties over the site. The DVSA did not agree to the footpath and stated at the time that its priority was, and remains, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and to prevent the potential for conflict with large vehicles in and around the test centre.

The DVSA has spent considerable resource and time investigating the matter and attending meetings. Many landowners would object to an access being forced on them by a developer of adjoining land in the same way and there are additional challenges for the DVSA around sharing the site considering its use for heavy goods vehicle testing. I understand the DVSA has made its position clear and has objected to the proposal. There is nothing further I am able to add at this stage.

I appreciate this will not be the response you were hoping for, but thank you for taking the time to write in with your concerns.

I am copying this response to Robbie Moore MP, who I understand has also written in on your behalf about this issue.

Yaws,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON