



Department
for Transport

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Our Ref: MC/333459

19 March 2021

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 12 March about Steeton driving test centre (DTC).

Officers and Councillors were quite clear that the change of use proposal has no bearing on the safeguard provision of a cycle route, as indicated in the Urban Development Plan. As a result, they resisted the Parish Council's request to require the inclusion of the cycle route as part of this proposal, or to condition any approval on the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) entering into discussions on the provision of the cycle route. The DVSA was willing to talk with the Council at the appropriate time, but made it clear this did not prejudice the outcome of any discussions.

You are correct that heavy goods vehicle MOT testing is no longer being conducted at this site, but in line with the Prime Minister's road map announcement, vocational driver testing will resume from this site on 12 April, providing the data shows it is safe to move on to this next step. The dangers posed from moving large vehicles remains the same. A change in use of the site from MOT testing to driver testing does not change the risk posed to pedestrians from large goods vehicles. In fact, the risk has increased as these vehicles are now being driven by learners, rather than large goods vehicle fitters or mechanics, as was previously being done when MOT testing was carried out at this site.

The DVSA's main concern is purely related to pedestrian traffic on the access road adjacent to the site, not the whole of Steeton Grove. The main part of Steeton Grove is straight, wide and has good visibility with a multitude of places for pedestrians to take refuge as a vehicle passes. Adults walking to their place of work, whether that is at the beginning or end of each working day, is not the same as more widespread regular pedestrian use.

The width of Steeton Grove, in the immediate vicinity of the test centre, is the main concern in relation to pedestrian traffic.

The DVSA's position is clear, 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. Thank you for taking the time to write to me with your concerns.

Yaws,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON