



CLlr David Mullen  
Chair  
Steeton-with-Eastburn  
Parish Council



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**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**  
Secretary of State for Transport

**Re:- Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.  
Steeton Driving Test Centre. BD20 6RW**

Dear Sir,

The Driving test centre is located within the Parish of Steeton with Eastburn. A large housing estate has been built adjacent to the Test Centre and, as part of the planning conditions for this development the developer was required to install a cycle/footway across the site, with a proposed egress along the edge of the test centre site. This was to enable the cycleway/footpath from Crosshills to Steeton and Silsden Station. The developer duly constructed their portion of any pathway and also installed the A frames for cycles as requested by planners. We knew at the time of the housing development that the Testing Centre was going to be putting in a planning application in the near future to demolish the HGV testing sheds that were on the site and now no longer needed, as that part of the operation had moved elsewhere. The application was to keep the offices and adapt the space for LGV, Motorbike and Motor Car Tests. The application was duly submitted, and as statutory consultees we made our representations and asked that the planned egress from the housing development should be conditioned on the test centres application to allow it to go down a 50m section of road/path in their ownership. This roadway goes from the housing development to Steeton Grove. By way of information this access road has existed since the 1930s when it was all part of the Munitions Factory.

This Footpath has been proposed and included in plans for a number years and was included in the Airedale Masterplan of 2004. Under the section CYCLE WAY, a path is shown from Crosshills towards Keighley going via Steeton and Silsden Station. Over the last number of years we have managed to get each section of the route conditioned with each planning application that has been submitted.



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That was until we got to the people of VOSA, as is now DVSA, who at no price wanted to be good neighbours. Instead, they became as obstructive as they possibly could be, denying permission and access. Consequently, I am humbly writing to request that you review the case and possibly propose a solution to the issue which complies with various accessibility conditions applied to this cycle/pedestrian route from Crosshills to Steeton and Silsden station and beyond. I feel it is also pertinent to mention that the original objection to the pathway, given by VOSA/DVSA is now defunct as a 2m high fence now bounds the entirety of the border twixt the testing centre and disputed length of pathway.

Appendix1. Is the drawing taken from the Airedale Master Plan. It shows the small section of roadway in question. Marked by the Green arrows.

Appendix2. Shows the RED LINE AREA of the TESTING STATION. The Piece we wanted to be Conditioned as Footpath/Cycleway is marked by the Blue Arrows.

Appendix3. Is a plan drawn by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The new development is now built where the North arrow is drawn, The Footpath/Cycleway is annotated on the drawing.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely  
Cllr David Mullen