

DSA motorcycle update

Issue 24

February 2011

Learning to ride working groups and your feedback

Last November we updated you on the CBT syllabus and potential rider trainer registration working groups.

The update explained the purpose of the groups and who is representing you from the training industry.



We asked you to send comments or suggestions to the members of the two working groups.

Many thanks to those of you who responded.

Your comments covered issues including:

CBT:

- levels of theoretical understanding
- difficult delivering a set syllabus to learners with different levels of experience
- length of CBT courses and ideas about splitting the CBT certificate into automatic and manual

Rider trainer registration schemes:

- there should be improved qualification standards
- better, more consistent standards checks are required
- support for a registration scheme similar to that for ADIs

Update from the working groups

We've had some questions from the motorcycle community about whether this work could lead to increased costs for instructors.

When we set up the working groups we agreed that we wanted a scheme for trainers that was user friendly and met the needs of the industry and riders of all abilities while keeping costs as low as possible.

In the current economic climate this is crucial for proposals to have a reasonable chance of being allowed to go on to public consultation. There would have to be very good reasons for any increase in costs.

The groups aim to develop proposals which will provide a more streamlined approach towards qualification in the different types of training such as CBT, DAS and RPMT.

This could mean trainers no longer have to travel to Cardington to qualify for CBT and DAS, which would reduce costs and inconvenience.

The groups are also looking to change the CBT syllabus so it is based on DSA's national standard for riding, which concentrates more on outcomes and the needs of the customer. This will allow CBT training to be more flexible in its delivery and take into account the different abilities of learners.

At the same time the groups are considering whether the cost of CBT certificates should be reduced and the money raised elsewhere. There may be fairer ways that fees can be charged without increasing the overall cost to the industry and the learner.

The groups will meet again in March and we'll update you on their progress.

News updates...

Trainer booking monitoring has resumed

We resumed the monitoring process from week commencing 31 January, following the recent bad weather.

We've also considered some of the feedback received in response to letters about the review of our procedures. Watch this space for further details.

THINK! website is moving

During March, content for the THINK! website will be moving onto Directgov.

Trainer booking tests on the opening day

We're looking at how we can reduce the amount of booking calls that trainers and schools have to make to DSA.

At the moment, when booking for the opening week 10 weeks in advance, each test centre opens on a particular day.

At this point trainers can book tests until the individual school's limit or the overall trainer booking limit has been reached on each day of the week.

If a trainer booker hasn't hit the trainer booking limit on all days, and tests remain on those days, a call back request for additional slots can't be submitted.

But these limits currently only apply on the opening day. A school can ring to submit a call back request and book any tests that remain the following day.

You told us about the difficulty having to ring on consecutive days for the same centre and you asked us to look at this.

Our proposal is to leave the booking limits in place for the whole of the opening week.

Then we will allow trainers to put in requests for further slots in the opening week when they ring on their next opening day.



But before we apply this we think it's important to get your feedback on how it may affect your business and working practices.

Please email us your views at trainerbooking.review@dsa.gsi.gov.uk by 21 March.

Incident reporting

We're working to improve the motorcycle incident reporting process.

Part of this work includes updating the incident reporting form and developing a clear notification and escalation process.

All motorcycle trainers must fill out an incident reporting form where an incident occurs during training.

We hope the new form and process will be ready to be sent out to motorcycle trainers in April.

Internet advertising rules

From 1 March, all your online marketing and communication must meet official advertising standards.



This includes what you say on your own website, as well as third-party sites you use, such as Facebook.

For example, you need to make sure that you can back up any claims you make about your business.

The Advertising Standards Authority will now be able to deal with complaints about such messages. You can find out more from the [Committee of Advertising Practice](#).

DSA bikers' group

Did you know that a number of us at DSA passionately love riding motorcycles?

Motorcycle examiners ride every day for work, but also for pleasure in their free time. There are many administrative staff who enjoy riding, too.

These keen riders have now set up their own bikers' group, with initiatives including a Facebook page.

This provides a platform for discussions about biking as well as information on charity rides, cafes or meets and equipment.



If you want to pass on information about an event, please email pressoffice@dsa.gsi.gov.uk.

Reaching out through Facebook

In the spring, we'll be launching a Facebook page for learner riders. This follows on from the success of our Facebook page for learner drivers, which now has almost 7,000 'fans'.



The page will include news about changes to the practical motorcycle test, and other important motorcycle news updates.

There'll be more details about the page in the next newsletter.



We'd like your views

We'd like to know if you think a Facebook page for trainers would be useful, too - please take a moment to let us know about both ideas by clicking on this link:

www.dft.gov.uk/dsa/general.asp?id=17756

Introducing **the biking brief**

The format of this newsletter is changing - from April, we'll be sending out news to you branded as '**the biking brief**'.

This will appear within the body of an email, so it will be easier for you to open and view. And you'll still be able to print it out in A4.

To continue to receive these news updates, just make sure you've signed up to the DSA Direct e-news alert service, and tick the '**motorcycle trainers**' option.



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