



Media release by the Motor Schools Association

Date: November 21, 2014

For immediate release

Call for all political parties to support a robust road safety policy to mitigate death and injury on our roads

The Motor Schools Association (MSA) fully supports the letter sent today to all political party leaders by the National Associations Strategic Partnership (NASP) calling on all political parties to support the development of a robust road safety policy to mitigate death and injury on our roads

The letter to the politicians urges them, as a sign of their commitment to reducing casualties and improving driving standards particularly amongst new young drivers, to include the following proposals in their 2015 manifestos:

- Learner drivers to maintain a record of their achievement ratified by an ADI
- Allow learners onto motorways, but only under the guidance of an ADI
- Require confirmation that the learner has received practical training with an ADI after dark

The letter also ask the politicians to make a commitment to developing the driving test in order to bring it into the twenty first century.

MSA & NASP chairman Peter Harvey said today:

“It is absolutely vital that we start now, six months before a general election, to try and persuade politicians that we need to make changes in order to better prepare new divers for our roads.

“These ideas are not new but we believe the time to introduce them is now.”

A copy of the letter

Dear Party Leader

With over 1700 deaths on our roads each year, and thousands more accidents where road users sustain serious life changing injuries, the National Associations Strategic Partnership

(NASP) is calling on all political parties to support the development of a robust road safety policy to mitigate death and injury on our roads.

NASP is the steering group for the driver training industry, composed of representatives of the four principal trade bodies representing driving instructors and schools in Great Britain. Collectively we represent over 20,000 professional driver trainers across the UK. Their views have been sought on key priorities in developing driving standards in the UK.

We urge your party to include the following proposals in your 2015 manifesto as a sign of your commitment to reducing casualties and improving driving standards on our roads particularly amongst new young drivers:

- Learner drivers to maintain a record of their achievement recording their progress and key driving competencies achieved. The record to be ratified by a Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency Approved Driving Instructor (ADI). This would provide a transparent statement of competencies achieved and act as a useful reflective journal.
- In order to facilitate acquiring the key competencies of driving on motorways, regulations should be relaxed to allow learners onto motorways, but only under the guidance of an ADI.
- In addition the learner driver's record of achievement should include confirmation that the learner has received practical training with an ADI after dark.

We also believe that it is critical to develop the driving test. Changes are needed in order to bring the test into the twenty first century and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) to examine possible changes that could be made.

We believe these proposals are straightforward to implement, would save a great deal of money (the current cost of each fatal collision on our roads, averages around £1.7m) and crucially would save lives.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Peter Harvey MBE

Chairman NASP

Members of NASP

Approved Driving Instructors National Joint Council (ADINJC)

Driving Instructors Association (DIA)

Driving Instructors Scottish Council (DISC)

The Motor Schools Association of Great Britain (MSA GB)

Letter sent to the leaders of these political parties in Great Britain

Conservative and Unionist

Green Party

Labour Party

Liberal Democrats

Plaid Cymru - Party of Wales

Respect Party

UKIP

Scottish National Party

The letter has also been sent to the leaders of these parties in Northern Ireland

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Democratic Unionist Party

Sinn Féin

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Media contacts

To speak to the MSA on this or any other road safety or driver training and testing issue:

MSA Head Office on 0161 429 9779

John Lepine MBE, MSA general manager, on 07720 941698 john.lepine@msagb.co.uk

Peter Harvey MBE, MSA national chairman, on 07774 139080.

The MSA is organised into 10 regions that can provide localised, authoritative comment on this or any other motoring or road safety-related matter. Each region is run by a local chairman, all fully qualified and experienced driver trainers, all experts in the field of driver training and people who can offer insights on a range of issues, including road safety, speed

limits, the condition of local highways, insurance, particularly for young and novice drivers, and a host of other motoring matters.

If you wish to contact one of our regional contacts please be aware that they may not answer their phone as they may be conducting driver training when you call. Leave a message and they will get back to you. If you need help urgently, please call the MSA Head Office on 0161 429 9669.

Your local contact is:

1. London: Tom Kwok 07956 269922
2. South East: Jo Chapman 07711 951540
3. Western: Colin Lilly 07768 36705
4. South Wales: Paddy Tyler 07961 444694
5. West Midlands: Geoff Little 07770 725436
6. Eastern: Rod Tipple 07702 395064
7. East Midlands: Stephen Sentance 01509 231623
8. North West: Graham Clayton 07710 541462
9. North East: Karl Satloka 07885 325115
10. Scotland: Bob Baker 07971 801150

Note to editors:

- The MSA was formed in 1935 to represent the views and interests of ADIs and driving school owners.
- It is the voice of ADIs in Great Britain.
- The MSA has consultative status with the Driving Standards Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Transport).
- The MSA also lobbies on behalf of its members and campaigns for better road safety.
- Follow this link below for more information on the MSA: www.msagb.com
- For our media area see: www.msagb.com/news/nw-media.asp