

## **NASP comment on continued closure of waiting rooms**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

NASP has today expressed its disappointment and frustration at the continuing closure of Test Centre waiting rooms. NASP member associations have raised the issue on numerous occasions and asked for a clearer line of sight on when waiting rooms may reopen, as trainers are already starting to be left out in the cold as Autumn arrives.

It is notable that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have also written to the agency highlighting that the failure to provide adequate sanitary facilities and waiting spaces to customers (and what HSE deems as 'workers' in this context, i.e trainers), is contrary to health and safety legislation and regulation.

Whilst relenting on the issue of failing to provide toilet facilities on the recommencement of testing services, DVSA have maintained to date that it is difficult to open waiting rooms across the board due to the challenges of ensuring social distancing (and need to limit exposure for all users to COVID-19), staffing challenges, and the issue at some test centres that waiting rooms are being pressed into service as extra office space to allow staff to socially distance.

We have received the following response from DVSA in the last few days:

*“Regards use of waiting rooms, many thanks for forwarding HSEs response  
Our current holding position is as follows:  
DVSA’s priority is to stop the spread of COVID-19.*

*Following engagement with driving instructors we made toilet and  
handwashing facilities available for any candidate, instructor or accompanying  
driver if requested.*

*DVSA is currently in discussion with HSE about the use of waiting rooms for  
driving instructors.”*

NASP association’s will continue to press the agency on this important issue which has the potential to impact the health and welfare of trainers across the board, even in the context of the decision to keep waiting rooms closed being made for health and safety reasons.