

Dungarvan / Lismore

Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: Ref: DTTAS-MOSN-00489-2022

From: Minister of State Naughtons Office <MinisterNaughton@transport.gov.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 20 April 2022 10:57

To: Contact User <contact@waterfordcouncil.ie>

Subject: Ref: DTTAS-MOSN-00489-2022

Our Ref: DTTAS-MOSN-00489-2022

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

Thank you for your correspondence (re driving test delays) on behalf of Dungarvan and Lismore District of Waterford City & County Council and which was forwarded by the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD. In this regard, I am replying to you on behalf of the Minister of State for Transport Hildegard Naughton TD.

We are happy to report that significant progress has been made in addressing the driving test backlog.

Due to the suspension of driver testing services in the initial pandemic response, along with the health protocols required since the resumption of services, a significant backlog in driving tests developed.

Pre-pandemic the target for average wait time for a driving test was 10 weeks, although on the immediate eve of the pandemic the actual waiting time was around 6 weeks.

This increased to 25 weeks during the Pandemic. However, at present, test waiting times are once again around 10 weeks on average.

To meet the demand for tests, approval has been given to significantly increase the capacity of the service through the recruitment and extension of a number of existing driver tester contracts.

This, and the introduction of a new booking system for tests, have had a noticeable impact on reducing Covid waiting list backlogs.

It is important to note that every possible measure is being put in place to ensure that the maximum number of customers can be served.

Your sincerely,

Chris Smith

Private Secretary to Minister of State Hildegard Naughton TD

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An Roinn Iompair

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