

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency – Permanent Driving Test Centre Programme

This evidence statement has been provided by Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) in response to the London Borough of Bromley's invalid notice dated 20th December, specifically the request detailed below.

“Details of the DVSA's plan going forward to find a permanent test centre location. Further justification would be helpful as to why a further months is required.”

DVSA are currently in fairly advanced negotiations to acquire a lease of a new premises in Bromley, on a 10 year fixed-term contract. The new location is within a one mile radius of the temporary Driving Test Centre site at Bromley Court Hotel, and will ensure that DVSA would secure the continued provision of licence assessment to meet the level of demand experienced in the local area.

Permanent Driving Test Centre Schedule

January 2018 – DVSA appointed Project Manager will issue a fit-out proposal that will be used to detail the process of making the interior space of the premises fit for occupation.

Cushman & Wakefield planning consultants will submit a change of use application to London Borough of Bromley.

March 2018 - The determination of the planning permission will be issued, and will conclude whether DVSA can operate lawfully from the premises as a Driving Test Centre (Sui Generis).

April 2018 - DVSA will sign and confirm the lease agreement with the site owner (this process is dependent on the speed of the solicitors).

July 2018 - Works to the building will commence during the summer period.

Autumn 2018 - The site will be operational and DVSA will begin to conduct licence testing for the local communities.

Given the above schedule, additional time is required for the temporary Driving Test Centre at Bromley Court Hotel to allow DVSA some contingency for any delays that may occur during the process, in order for DVSA to continue to maintain a service level provision to the local communities. Delays could occur within the negotiation stage of acquiring the premises and legally signing the agreement, due to third party involvement. As well as this, the planning application process should have a statutory 8 weeks determination period as it will be a minor planning application, but concerns and issues may arise that can consequentially extend the statutory determination period.

Therefore, for these reasons DVSA consider that it is necessary that the Bromley Court Hotel original consent is extended for a full year, in order to give DVSA sufficient contingency for any delays that may arise throughout the process of acquirement of the permanent solution, planning application and suitable fit-out for occupation.

We trust that you find the additional details sufficient in order to validate the application and we look forward to hearing the confirmation. Should you have any queries or require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my colleague Adam Pyrke (02032 964144 | adam.pyrke@cushwake.com).

This evidence statement is informed by Matthew Cooper at the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.