

## This Dáil

- Notes with concern the huge backlog in those waiting on a driving test, with 72,414 people now in limbo, an increase of over 60 percent since 2022,
- Is alarmed by the fact that this backlog grew by nearly 10,000 over the last three months,
- Acknowledges that no test centre is meeting the statutory maximum of 10 weeks in the service level agreement, with many learner-drivers regularly having to wait over 6 months to sit a test and some waiting as long as 8 months,
- Is not reassured that that the Road Safety Authority, who have statutory responsibility for the operation aspects of the national driving test, has the capacity or ability to address these backlogs, and are consistently in breach of their own service level agreement,
- Is concerned with the continued shortages in driving test instructors and is not satisfied that recruitment processes since 2022 have been sufficient to address the growing backlog,
- Notes that excessive wait times are especially pronounced for those who rely on a driving licence for educational or employment purposes, including drivers for Bus Éireann of Dublin Bus or paramedics who require a licence prior entry to the course, delaying the provision of additional services,
- Acknowledges that the practice of hiring temporary driving test instructors led to a large turnover of testers, leading to a loss of local knowledge and experiences,
- Recognises that learner drivers are trapped on expensive insurance policies, pushing up the cost of learning to drive to €3,000 in some parts of the country,
- That many areas of the country have no driving test centre, with many people having to travel long distances to take a test and placing upward pressure on already stretched driving test centres around the country,
- Regrets the closure of permanent and temporary test centres around the country and the failure of the Office of Public Works and the Road Safety Authority to find new sites,

## Calls on the Government to:

- Acknowledge its responsibility to ensure that when demand for public service increases, this must be matched by additional resources to meet demand,
- Instruct the Minister for Transport to take immediate action to expedite and increase the recruitment of additional permanent driving test instructors,
- End the over reliance on hiring temporary driving test instructors,
- Conduct an urgent review of the capacity of the Road Safety Authority to address the backlog in driving tests, including its mandate, resourcing and programme of work,
- Address the shortfall in driving test centres across the country, and to instruct the Office of Public Works and the Road Safety Authority to urgently identify suitable sites to fill those gaps,
- To draft and implement without delay a strategic plan to achieve the statutory maximum waiting time of 10 weeks.

Pa Daly, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Matt Carthy, Cathy Bennett, John Brady, Pat Buckley, Joanna Byrne, Sorca Clarke, Rose Conway-Walsh, Réada Cronin, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Máire Devine, Pearse Doherty, Paul Donnelly, Dessie Ellis, Mairéad Farrell, Thomas Gould, Ann Graves, Johnny Guirke, Martin Kenny, Claire Kerrane, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Mary Lou McDonald, Denise Mitchell, Donna McGettigan, Conor McGuinness, Johnny Mythen, Natasha Newsome Drennan, Shona Ní Raghallaigh, Eoin Ó Broin, Louis O'Hara, Ruairi Ó Murchú, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Fionntáin Ó Suilleabháin, Louise O'Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Maurice Quinlivan, Mark Ward