

A VISION OF THE FUTURE By Simon Best, IAM chief executive

The IAM has started the biggest review of the advanced driving and riding tests in the organisation's history, starting with consultation with members and examiners.



Mark Lewis, director of standards, is leading the review. He said the changes have become essential to ensure the advanced tests follow a consistent standard around the country, and one befitting of the IAM name and brand.

We are grateful to all the people who took part. We weren't able to invite everyone along who might have wanted a say, but they will get their chance as we move into the next phase of this review.

The first stage involved a cross-section of examiners and members from around the country taking part in a series of workshops to review the content of the car and motorcycle tests. Mark and his team are now collating the information generated from these workshops with a view to inviting further comments from a wider group of members.

The next stage of the process is expected to take place within the next two months.

This review is taking place because, as one of the largest post-test driver

training organisations in the country, we want to ensure that our advanced test is fit for modern day drivers using modern vehicles on modern roads. It is all about the customer experience, we need to ensure our products evolve and keep up with current thinking, embracing all aspects of modern vehicle technology and road design.

The changes are also about ensuring the advanced test, which has gained respect internationally, remains at that standard as the market evolves in the future. As always, we will make sure you are kept informed of future developments on this review.

Simon Best
Chief executive



IAM BLAZES A TRAIL WITH FIRE TEAM



We have recently boosted our membership by 380 people in one fell swoop, as all drivers of fire appliances and response cars at Surrey Fire and Rescue Service joined as part of their pioneering IAM accredited driving programme.

The project was co-ordinated by Paul Woosley, IAM membership development manager, and Peter Mosdell, driver school manager at Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

Paul said: "Peter approached us with a view to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service getting their own driver training programme officially accredited, as there was no formal external accreditation for their scheme. Peter developed their in-house training programme and wanted to get that endorsed by a leader in the field – and that's where we came in."

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service paid for full two year IAM membership for their 380 response driving staff. All newly qualified response drivers also automatically gain membership.

Paul said: "We are delighted Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has chosen the IAM to accredit their programme. The benefits to them are to recognise the pride they take in their work and may contribute to an ongoing reduction in the number of vehicle incidents."

Peter said: "I'd been aware of the IAM for a long time, and I liked the fact the charity isn't just a training organisation – I like the IAM's accent on road safety and lobbying. Having an IAM accreditation helps professionalise what we do here, and raises our reputation."

Peter says the IAM-accredited training scheme is so impressive he now wants to promote the model to other fire and emergency services.

PRICE CHANGES

Please note that the price for the IAM's Skills for Life course goes up from £139 to £149 from 1 October this year.

Our Skills for Life course delivers advanced driving stemming from the police's Roadcraft driving manual, helping you to improve your skills, anticipation and enjoyment behind the wheel. To date over 400,000 people have taken our Advanced Driving Test, quality assured by the DSA.

The IAM will also be sending out other price notifications during September.

CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

You should now have received your invitation to the IAM Conference at Aston University in Birmingham on 1 and 2 November – so make sure you confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

You have until 1 October to get your replies in, so don't waste your chance to shape the IAM's 2020 strategy.

Pat Doughty, IAM operations director, said: "More than ever before, this is the ideal opportunity to gain an insight into the main themes of IAM's future strategy and have your views heard by senior people here, and have a real influence on what we do in the future."

This year, there will be a series of five workshops running, covering the following areas: IMI National and Local Observer Qualifications, Standards – Driving and Riding, Group Structure, Communication and Overall IAM Strategy.

Please return your booking form by email to conference2014@iam.org.uk or by post to IAM Conference, 510 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5RG by 1 October at the latest.



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