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20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Northern Ireland Assembly  
Room 247  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4 3XX

*For the attention of the Committee Clerk*

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill**

I am responding on behalf of ADE Training & Consultancy Limited to the Committees call for a written call for evidence in order to assist it with the scrutiny of the Bill.

ADE Training & Consultancy are a Northern Ireland based company working in the road safety industry providing education through courses (Speed awareness, Driver CPC), driving tuition at all levels from learner to advanced, including blue light vehicle driving.

This letter will present our views on certain aspects of the above-defined proposed legislation.



1. In relation to Part II, ADE Training & Consultancy agree with the proposals in this section, as a reduction in the limits will make the road safer.

In relation to Part III, ADE Training & Consultancy agrees with the proposal in principle with the comments listed below.

In relation to Part IV, ADE Training & Consultancy agree with the proposals in this section

In relation to Part V, ADE Training & Consultancy agree with the proposals in this section

2. ADE Training & Consultancy comments on Part III

- a. Article 16 - Minimum age for licence: small vehicle:

Reducing the age from the present figure we feel is not acceptable, as we will be putting a greater responsibility on very young inexperienced shoulders. We are treating them as adults while other legislation treats them as juvenile and requires a responsible person to be present when interviewing them for an offence, yet we will be introducing them to a system where most offences are dealt with by the way of a fixed penalty notice. We are potentially putting them in a lethal weapon without experience of life.

- b. Article 17 - Provisional licence to be held for minimum period in certain cases:

At line 17, it mentions holding a provisional licence for a period of 12 months before taking the practical test. Does this mean exactly that, or must the holder take lessons or supervised driving throughout that period? At present, a large number of drivers take fast track or intensive courses to pass the test. What will happen if a driver receives their licence at 16 ½ but does not drive for 50 weeks then completes a fast track course to pass their test? This means



the driver will not have gained the necessary experience as the spirit of the legislation implies.

- c. Article 18 & 19 - "Tests of competence to drive: training before taking: A log book in principle is an excellent idea and could be used in a positive manner but could also be abused by a number of people. Fraudulent entries would be the biggest problem but the positives may outweigh this. If an approved driving instructor was to sign the log they could include what was taught on that lesson. It would be possible to make sure that a new licence was taking lessons over the year they have held their licence before test rather than take an intensive course which does not necessarily give experience. The final point would be who is going to be responsible to check the logbook for fraudulent entries and investigate these or allegations.
3. I am prepared to give oral testimony to your Committee, if it would be helpful.

Regards

Philip Robb