

Assembly Business Unit

Michael Potter
Clerk to the Committee for Infrastructure
Committee Office
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

3rd Floor
James House
2-4 Cromac Street
Belfast BT7 2JA
Tel: 028 9034 6243

DarrenMurray@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: PN diesel emissions test

11 September 2026

Dear Michael

CHANGING THE EXHAUST EMISSIONS TEST FOR LIGHT VEHICLES WITH MODERN DIESEL ENGINES

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Committee that Minister Kimmins has approved the progression of amending legislation by the Department for Infrastructure to provide for the introduction of Particulate Number (PN) emissions testing for modern light diesel vehicles subject to annual MOT testing and for light and heavy modern vehicles to undergo similar PN emissions tests during roadside enforcement checks.

In January 2025, the Committee was advised that Minister O'Dowd had agreed to the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) progressing implementation of a PN emissions test for modern light diesel vehicles subject to annual MOT testing and providing for light and heavy modern vehicles to undergo similar PN emissions tests during roadside enforcement checks.

Please find attached copies of the SL1 (Annex A), the draft amending Statutory Rule (SR) which provides for the introduction of PN testing (Annex B) and the related Explanatory Memorandum (Annex C), for the Committee's consideration.

The amending Regulations provide for conducting a diesel emission PN test as a more effective alternative to the statutory smoke test for specified modern diesel vehicles during annual MOT inspections and at roadside enforcement checks. The

SL1 includes details on previous engagement with the Committee on PN testing, financial implications and the outcome of a range of relevant impact assessments.

FOI Implications

In the event of a request for disclosure of information contained in this letter under the FOI Act, the request would be considered in the context of the relevant provisions of the legislation, including any relevant exemptions that may be applicable.

I should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of the Committee so that it may note the Minister's approval to progress the necessary amending legislation and the details contained in the associated legislative documents.

I trust that the Committee will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darren Murray
DEPARTMENTAL ASSEMBLY LIAISON OFFICER