

To.

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8 SEPT 60

JOHN STABG Esq.

HIGH SPEED ROAD SURFACING UNIT

Attached details of HSRSU as requested  
by Mr P Whitaker.

As this is the only copy I have please  
can you return to me at your  
convenience

Yours faithfully  
E.G. Robson

E.G. ROBSON  
MEXE  
BARRACIE ROAD  
CHRIST CHURCH

HAMPSHIRE

Speaking at a Press Conference at the Ministry of Transport Vehicle Testing Station at Hendon on 8th September, 1960, Lord Chesham, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, said:

"This is a somewhat unusual venue for a Press Conference, but it has, of course, been arranged so that you may see a demonstration of the tests as they will be carried out all over the country from Monday next, and so that you will know just what is involved; indeed if you wish, and have the temerity, you may submit your own cars. We promise that we shall leave it entirely to you to decide whether to tell if they do not pass.

There are however just one or two points I should like to emphasise.

We do want it realised that the test is available to any car, motor cycle or light goods vehicle, irrespective of age; and we do hope that in the interests of their own safety and that of others, motorists generally will take advantage of this quick and cheap way of finding out whether the brakes, steering and lights of their vehicles are in order or need adjustment. Within the next few months the test will be made obligatory for vehicles which have been registered for more than ten years, but we do recommend those affected to take advantage of this short introduction period to submit their vehicles. They may save themselves inconvenience at a later date if it is found that repairs or adjustments are needed.

Even though there will be some 12,000 testing stations there will be a lot of work for them if everybody leaves it to the last minute.

This leads me to emphasise again that it is no purpose of the scheme to drive the older vehicles off the roads merely on the score of their age. We well know that there are many much newer cars in just

as bad a state as some of the older ones; but a start had to be made somewhere. In due time we intend to extend the scheme to younger vehicles and eventually to those of all ages.

The requirements of the test are not especially new or onerous. Vehicles which fail to qualify have been used in breach of requirements, most of which have been in force for many years; and it is fair to say that no prudent person would want to risk his own or others' safety by driving them. Any vehicle which has been properly constructed and reasonably maintained should pass the test without difficulty. I would like you to emphasise this because there have been some indications that quite a lot of people have unnecessary fears on this score.

This is, of course, the only testing station to be operated by the Ministry. There will be about 70 stations operated by municipalities at the start of the scheme, but as you know most of the stations will be operated by commercial garages. This arrangement is, I am sure, the one best suited to the convenience (and pockets) of motorists, particularly when account is taken of the safeguards there are to ensure that the tests are fair and consistent throughout the country.

We intend to allow a further short period after the tests have been made compulsory for the ten year old vehicles, before the issue of a licence is made conditional on the production of a test certificate. People have asked, when this comes about how do I manage if my car is not licensed? The answer is that arrangements already made will enable an unlicensed vehicle to be driven on the roads for the specific purpose of submission for a test, and similar exemptions will be made for the use of an untested vehicle in these circumstances."

Ministry of Transport,  
Berkeley Square House,  
London, W.1.  
8th September, 1960.

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