



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Rd
London, SW1P 4DR

4th December 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

DVSA PCS Dispute

I am concerned that the dispute between the union and the Agency shows no sign of resolution. The PCS officials informed me that the union wants to end the dispute and enter negotiations but that the Agency has refused to meet unless the union calls off its planned industrial action.

You will be aware that the dispute centres on the issues of travel time, the new driving test and flexible working.

I believe you should consider authorising your officials to open talks by withdrawing the current proposals that have proven to be an obstacle to an agreement for over two years. It is possible that an agreement could be reached between the two sides if the talks were focussed on finding a way forward on how staff would be deployed in practise rather than an ongoing disagreement about what the Modernising Employment Contract does and does not allow DVSA to do in respect of deployment and travel time.

Like other areas of transport policy there are disagreements over the various risk assessments that have been conducted on the new test, and the conclusions that have been drawn. I believe the concerns about new manoeuvres and satellite navigation kit should be discussed and addressed. In addition, any talks should consider scheduling, safety and work practises.

I believe the current dispute could be settled and that damaging and prolonged strike action could be avoided should progress be made in these areas and they could open up the opportunity for wider talks about flexible working.

I know you will share my view that good industrial relations across the Department are important for us all including staff, managers and the public who access and rely on the services offered by our people.

I believe the time has now come for you to intervene and ensure that serious negotiations that can resolve the dispute are convened.

Yours sincerely,

Andy McDonald MP