

28 August 2026

Ms Barbara Creecy, MP
Minister of Transport
Forum Building
159 Struben Street
PRETORIA
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Dear Ms Creecy

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO THE LEARNER'S LICENCE QUESTION BANK (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS) FOR INDEPENDENT LANGUAGE AND QUALITY REVIEW

I refer to our previous correspondence regarding the Computerised Learner's Licence Testing (CLLT) system and the concerns that have been raised by numerous young South Africans regarding the wording and interpretation of certain learner's licence test questions.

Since our previous engagement, AfriForum Youth continued to receive correspondence from learner's licence candidates, parents, driving instructors and members of the public. While many support the Department's efforts to strengthen the integrity of the learner's licence testing system and combat corruption, the wording, translation and clarity of certain questions presented in the examination are causing concern.

AfriForum Youth shares the Department's objective of ensuring that learner's licences are issued through a system that is transparent, credible and free from corruption. We believe that maintaining the integrity of the learner's licence testing process is in public interest and remain supportive of initiatives that strengthen public confidence in the system.

It is important to emphasise that AfriForum Youth is not advocating for an easier learner's licence test. We fully support a system that ensures prospective drivers possess a sound understanding of the rules of the road. Our concern is rather that candidates should be assessed on their knowledge of road traffic legislation and safe driving principles, and not be unintentionally disadvantaged by ambiguous wording, inconsistent translations or language that creates unnecessary uncertainty.

It is in this spirit of constructive cooperation that we respectfully request the opportunity to conduct an independent review of the English and Afrikaans versions of the learner's licence question bank, together with the corresponding answer options.

Our objective is not to criticise the Department, but rather to work alongside it in strengthening public confidence in the learner's licence testing system by identifying any wording or translation issues that may unintentionally disadvantage candidates. Should this process prove beneficial, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss extending a similar review to the remaining official language versions of the examination.

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• Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • NGO number: 054 - 590

The purpose of this review is not to evaluate whether the answers themselves are correct. Rather, the purpose is to determine whether the wording, translation and interpretation of both the questions and answer options accurately convey the intended meaning and are free from unnecessary ambiguity.

An independent review could assist in determining, amongst other things:

- whether the Afrikaans translations accurately reflect the intended meaning of the English questions;
- whether the answer options retain the same meaning across both language versions;
- whether certain questions or answer options may reasonably be regarded as ambiguous or open to multiple interpretations;
- whether any linguistic inconsistencies could unintentionally disadvantage candidates; and
- whether opportunities exist to improve the clarity and fairness of the examination while fully maintaining its integrity.

We appreciate that the Department may have legitimate concerns regarding the confidentiality of the learner's licence question bank. Should this be the case, AfriForum Youth would gladly enter into an appropriate confidentiality agreement to ensure that the material is used solely for the purposes of this independent review and is neither distributed nor published.

Should the Department not be comfortable providing copies of the question bank, we would gladly accommodate any reasonable alternative arrangement. For example, AfriForum Youth would be willing to appoint a small team consisting of independent language practitioners and subject-matter experts to conduct the review at a venue determined by the Department and under the supervision of departmental officials. Under such an arrangement, no questions would be copied, photographed, reproduced or removed from the Department's custody unless expressly authorised by the Department.

Our intention throughout this process is to work with the Department and not against it. We believe that a collaborative review of the English and Afrikaans question banks would demonstrate a shared commitment to transparency, fairness and continuous improvement, while further strengthening public confidence in the learner's licence testing system.

Should the independent review conclude that the wording and translations are clear, accurate and consistent, AfriForum Youth would gladly communicate this publicly. Likewise, should opportunities for improvement be identified, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these constructively with the Department before any public engagement takes place.

We trust that the Department will give this proposal favourable consideration and look forward to working together in the interests of all South Africans.

Kind regards

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