

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs (TAC) Meeting

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Held by video conference on Thursday 25th February 2021

Present:

Chairperson -	Mr. Con O'Donohue.
Representing SPSV and driver interests	Mr. Kevin Finn, Mr. Alan Fox, Mr. John Murphy.
Representing local authorities	Ms. Mary Henchy.
Representing interests of persons with disabilities	Ms. Joan Carthy.
Representing the interests of business-	Ms. Ann Campbell.
Representing the interests of older persons-	Mr. Peter Fleming.
Representing the interests of tourism	Mr. Al Ryan.
Special interest or expertise	Mr James O'Brien.
Special interest or expertise	Mr. Noel Ebbs.

Apologies:

Representing An Garda Síochána - Superintendent Thomas Murphy.
Representing the interests of consumers - Mr. James Cawley.

NTA Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Wendy Thompson, Director of Transport Regulation (Item 5), Ms. Patricia Craven, Head of Taxi Regulation (Item 5), Mr. Eddie Fullerton Compliance Manager (Item 4)Ms. Jackie Mullen (Minutes).

Others in Attendance:

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of Meetings held on 28th January 2021.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January were approved without amendment.

3. Matters arising.

All matters arising being dealt with as Agenda items.

4. NTA SPSV Compliance Presentation –Mr. Eddie Fullerton Compliance Manager NTA

Mr. Fullerton gave a presentation on the work of the compliance unit and its activities in relation to education, deterrence and enforcement.

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs (TAC) Meeting

5. NTA Update

Ms Craven gave a presentation on the SPSV statistical updates for January. She informed the Committee that the uptake on the Fáilte Ireland training programme has been very low to date particularly among individual drivers. She urged industry representatives to encourage their members to complete the training.

The draft terms of reference and questionnaire for the accessibility survey have been completed and circulated to the working group. The survey will commence in quarter three.

The second part of the COVID industry and User survey has commenced. The driver survey is ongoing and the consumer survey will commence this week. A presentation of the top level results will be given to the Committee at the March meeting.

Ms. Thompson gave an update on the electric SPSV (eSPSV) grant scheme, which was published on the 4th February and the wheelchair accessible SPSV (WAV) grant scheme 2021 which will be published on the 1st March. The full terms and conditions and a detailed information guide are set out on the NTA website.

Ms. Thompson also gave a brief overview of wide ranging methods of communications with the SPSV industry, including the industry newsletter and the NTA website.

6. UBER - UK Supreme Court Ruling.

Ms. Thompson gave the Committee a brief overview of the recent UK Supreme Court decision in the UBER appeal case concerning the employment status of private hire vehicle drivers. The Supreme Court unanimously dismissed Uber's appeal. This decision is not binding in Ireland as Ireland is not bound to follow UK case law. A copy of the judgement will be circulated to Committee members.

7. Cost of Insurance Working Group: Eleventh and Final Progress Update.

The Committee did not make any further comments on the Report and will continue to watch developments in the insurance sector.

8. 2021 Workplan

The Chair asked Ms. Thompson to give a brief overview of the current position on Local Area Hackneys.

Ms. Thompson informed the Committee that there has been very little take up of local area taxi licences. There are currently only 21 providers of this service (up to the end of 2020). NTA had identified 15 designated areas to participate in a pilot study. Only 3 progressed to pilot stage but did not advance due to Covid-19. It was agreed that some background information would be circulated and the Committee was encouraged to give feedback on the next steps.

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Craven left the meeting.

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs (TAC) Meeting

The Chair asked Committee members to suggest their priorities for the Workplan. The following priorities were agreed

1. Sustainable Mobility
2. Transferability
3. Covid-19 – industry recovery
4. Vehicle Standards
5. Local Area Hackney

It was agreed to focus on Transferability and Covid-19 industry recovery for the March meeting.

9. Fáilte Ireland meeting 12th February 2021.

The Chair gave a brief update on the Fáilte Ireland meeting.

10. AOB.

There were no issues raised.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 10.30am (via video conference)

Signed: _____
Chairperson.

Dated: _____