

**Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs (TAC) Meeting
Held by video conference on Thursday 28th January 2021**

Present:

Chairperson - Mr. Con O'Donohue.

Representing small public service vehicle and driver interests - Mr. Kevin Finn, Mr. Alan Fox,
Mr. John Murphy.

Representing An Garda Síochána - Superintendent Thomas Murphy.

Representing the interests of consumers - Mr. James Cawley.

Organisation representing interests of persons with disabilities - Ms. Joan Carthy.

Representing the interests of business - Ms. Ann Campbell.

Organisation 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 local authorities - Ms. Mary Henchy.

NTA Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Wendy Thompson, Director of Transport Regulation (Item 5), Ms. Patricia Craven, Head of Taxi Regulation (Item 5), Ms. Jackie Mullen (Minutes).

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Desmond Cox, Sustainable Mobility Investment and Policy Division, Department of Transport (Item 4), Ms. Carol O'Reilly, Sustainable Mobility Investment and Policy Division, Department of Transport (Item 4)

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of Meetings held on 29th October and 26th November 2020.

The draft minutes of the meetings held on the 29th October and 26th November were approved without amendment.

3. Matters arising.

All matters arising being dealt with as Agenda items.

4. Sustainable Mobility Policy Review – Report of Public Consultation Process

Mr. Cox gave a brief overview of the context for the policy review and the main outcomes from the public consultation which was completed in February 2020. There will be further stakeholder

engagement before the final publication of the policy. The Committee welcomed the opportunity for further engagement.

5. NTA Update

Ms. Thompson gave an update on the filling of the five vacancies on the Committee. The process is currently ongoing.

Ms. Thompson provided the NTA Year End Statistical Update to the Committee.

Given the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, there was a discussion around the extension of vehicle age limits. Following an initial temporary amendment to the maximum permissible age (in place up to 31st December 2020), there was a further extension of this provision for vehicles for the full year of 2021. All vehicles reaching their maximum permissible age of 10/15 years between March 2020 and December 2021 will benefit from remaining eligible to operate until they reach 11/16 years respectively. This will be kept under review by the NTA while being cognisant of the other financial aid measures in place such as the eSPSV grants for ageing vehicles, and the Government's MircoFinance Ireland interest free loans. Information on this will be included in the NTA February Industry Update.

There was discussion around the scope of the confidentiality requirement for Advisory Committee members, and publication of minutes of meetings, with Ms. Thompson providing an overview on the status and legal functions of the Advisory Committee. It was agreed that Committee members would submit a short biography to be published on the NTA website.

Ms. Craven gave an update on the electric vehicle grant scheme. The Department of Transport is finalising a press release regarding funding to incentivise end of life vehicle scrappage and the grant scheme for 2021.

Ms. Craven advised that the uptake of the Fáilte Ireland online training has been slow, with a slightly greater uptake among the affiliated operators. The NTA is looking at ways to promote the training amongst all industry members.

The NTA continues to liaise with Taxi Watch and the HSE on mental health initiatives and is continuing to provide information on mental health initiatives available on its website and via the industry newsletter.

The second part of the COVID industry and User survey is scheduled for February 2021. The first survey has been uploaded to the NTA website.

The NTA is working on a separate accessibility survey with Committee members Ms. Carthy and Mr Cawley, and the Accessibility Manager, NTA with a draft questionnaire expected for piloting at the end of Q3 2021.

6. 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.

7. 2021 Workplan

It was agreed that Committee members will actively input into the 2021 workplan and that Sustainable Mobility, Local Area Hackneys, Vehicle Standards (e.g. tinted glass) and Transferability would be key work streams.

Committee members will also propose items they would like to see as regular items for discussion at the Advisory Committee meetings.

8. Schedule of Meetings for 2021

A schedule of meetings for 2021 has been circulated and was agreed and a calendar invite will follow.

It was agreed that commencing with the January 2021 minutes, the minutes of all Advisory Committee meetings will be published on the NTA website once approved by the Committee.

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

Signed: _____
Chairperson.

Dated: _____