

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs (TAC) Meeting

Held by video conference on Thursday 25th March 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.
Special interest or expertise	Mr. Martin Plummer

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. Hugh Creegan Director of Transport Planning and Investment (Item 4)Ms. Jackie Mullen (Minutes).

Others in Attendance:

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. New Appointments to the Advisory Committee on SPSVs.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Martin Plummer a new appointee who will represent Special Interest or Expertise. Mr. Plummer had previously served on the Committee from 2012 – 2018 with specialist knowledge of the Chauffeur/Limousine industry.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th February 2021 and matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th February were approved without amendment. All matters arising are being dealt with as agenda items.

4. NTA Update

Ms. Thompson advised the Committee that the formal 2021 maximum taxi fare review, which is normally undertaken approximately every two years, based on the previous year's taxi activity and costs has been postponed. The reason for this deferral is that the time period under review (2020) does not reflect normal levels of taxi activity or outlay due to the Covid-19 crisis. She confirmed that this will be kept under review and that the current rolling driver surveys will continue. The Committee agreed with this course of action.

Ms. Craven gave a presentation on the SPSV statistical updates for February. It was noted that approximately 79% of drivers are not breaking the driver to vehicle link. Drivers should be encouraged to break the link while they are not operating.

She also presented some of the top line results from the consumer and industry surveys. A more detailed analysis will be brought to the next meeting.

The Committee agreed the HSE training link on mental health and suicide recognition should be put up on the NTA website, with information from the Talk with Tom organisation to follow once received and verified.

Ms. Thompson informed the Committee that a further extension of the maximum vehicle age limit for those vehicle renewal dates which were extended under the SPSV (Emergency Measure Covid-19) Regulations 2020 is being kept under review and will be looked at again in June. The availability of the end of life vehicle purchase eGrants and WAV grants and MicroFinance Ireland interest free loans were highlighted. The committee agreed, at the request of Ms Thompson, to submit it's fully considered advices on the extension of the maximum vehicle age limit to the NTA for consideration.

5. Transport Planning Landscape Presentation – Mr. Hugh Creegan

Mr. Hugh Creegan Director of Transport Planning and Investment gave a presentation on the current large scale investment projects and how they may impact on the SPSV industry. He informed the Committee that while there will be some changes in road layouts, overall there would be no negative impacts for the movement of taxis and the number of taxi ranks.

Wendy Thompson, Patricia Craven and Hugh Creegan left the meeting.

The Committee had a brief discussion about the extension of the maximum vehicle age limit and agreed to put forward a business case for extension to the NTA.

6. Advisory Committee 2021 Workplan –

- COVID-19
- Transferability

In relation to transferability, it was agreed that the discussion should be centred on two separate issues namely -

1. Transfer of an individual licence

2. Transfer of company controlled licences

This item will be tabled at the next meeting of the committee

7. AOB.

An issue in relation to VRT will be forwarded to the Chair.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th April (via video conference)

Signed: _____
Chairperson.

Dated: _____