

**Minutes of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs Meeting**  
*Video conference, Thursday, 29 July 2021*

**Present:**

Chairperson	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
Representing SPSV and driver interests	Mr. Kevin Finn, Mr. John Murphy, Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury, Mr. Francis Doheny
An Garda Síochána	Superintendent Tom Murphy
Consumers	Ms. Michelle Reid
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, Ms. Fiona Brady

**Apologies:**

Representing SPSV and driver interests	Mr. John Murphy
Representing local authorities	Ms. Mary Henchy
Consumers	Mr. James Cawley
Representing interests of persons with disabilities	Ms. Joan Carthy
Special interest or expertise	Mr. Martin Plummer, Noel Ebbs

**NTA Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Wendy Thompson, Director of Transport Regulation (items 6, 7), NTA, Ms. Patricia Craven, Head of Taxi Regulation (items 6, 7) & Ms. Jackie Mullen (Secretary)

**Others in Attendance:**

N/A

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**1. Minutes and Matters Arising.**

Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 approved with no amendment. The Committee agreed to add a clarification to the draft submission on transferability. Any individual taking over a licence must be vetted and go through all the appropriate checks.

The Chair informed the Committee that a note on eSPSV will be circulated shortly and once finalised will be forwarded to the Minister and the NTA.

**2. Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan – Local Area Hackneys**

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to get a full update on the issues relating to Local Area Hackneys from the NTA in order to clarify where the gaps are and decide how best to progress the service. A separate session will be scheduled with the NTA in September in advance of the September meeting of the Advisory Committee.

**3. Credit Card Payments**

The Committee agreed that this should be progressed. It has been linked to the fare increase which is currently on hold due to Covid-19.

#### **4. Roof Signs**

The Chair informed the Committee that there are currently no regulations in place regarding the copyright of vehicle roof signs. There was general agreement among members of the need to standardise the roof sign across the fleet. Some of the new designs are more aerodynamic. If any changes are to be made it would be on a phased basis.

#### **5. Covid-19**

Some Committee members raised concerns regarding vehicles that have professionally fitted screens failing the NCT. The Chair stated that the NCT will accept an engineer's report / certificate and drivers should ensure that they get this report at the time the screens are fitted. The driver's insurance company must also be made aware of the installation of such screens. The screens must not have any impact on vehicle safety.

#### **5. Advisory Committee Members Induction**

The Chair thanked the NTA for a very informative and beneficial induction session for all members of the Committee. Ms. Craven informed the committee that an induction pack will be mailed out to all of the members shortly and asked members to send their addresses to the Secretary. Alternatively members can arrange to collect the induction pack from the NTA offices if they wish.

Ms. Craven also reminded members that the SPSV Accessibility Survey is ongoing and she encouraged members to respond with any feedback.

#### **7. NTA Update**

Ms. Craven presented the monthly statistical update.

Ms. Craven informed the Committee that it is anticipated the motor tax rebate scheme will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, although this date has not yet been confirmed. Under the scheme drivers must pay their vehicle tax and then apply for a refund. All motor tax paid on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> September (if this is confirmed as the agreed start date) will be eligible for a refund under the scheme for a 12 month period. This refund will be paid within 20 working days and full details of the motor tax rebate scheme will be put on the NTA website in advance of the opening of the scheme.

In relation to the NCT fee waiver, Ms. Craven informed the committee that final date for the commencement of the scheme has not yet been fixed. Full details of the scheme will be published on the NTA's website in advance of the commencement date once agreed. The NTA is working closely with Applus who are the NCT contractor employed by the RSA and a separate entity and contract. Under the scheme drivers will not have to pay up front and claim a refund under this scheme – no fee will be applied.

Ms. Craven informed the Committee that the NTA have received just under 900 applications under the electric vehicle grant scheme and approximately 150 payments are currently in progress.

Ms. Thompson requested that the Committee provide its current advices on cashless payment regulations to the NTA noting the advice on credit cards provided in the Small Public Service Vehicle Industry Proposals for Industry Recovery Advisory Committee on Small Public Service Vehicles response to Covid-19 report submitted to the Department of Transport and the NTA on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The secretary will re-issue the report to all members.

In relation to roof signs Ms. Thompson stated that the constant visibility of the roof sign number (vehicle licence number) is critical in any roof sign design, particularly in relation to the Driver Check app and public safety. She requested that the Committee provide its current advices on roof signs to the NTA, particularly given the last consultation on the matter was in 2015.

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Craven left the meeting

**7. AOB.**

There were no items raised under AOB.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (via video conference)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_