

Draft Minutes
Advisory Committee on SPSVs
Hybrid Meeting, NTA Offices and MS Teams
Thursday, 29th September 2022, 10.00am

Present:

Chairperson	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
Representing SPSV and driver interests	Mr. John Murphy, Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury, Mr. Francis Doheny
Consumers	Mr. James Cawley
Special interest or expertise	Mr. Noel Ebbs, Mr. James O'Brien, Ms. Fiona Brady, Mr. Paul Gregan
Representing the interests of tourism	Mr. Al Ryan
Representing the interests of persons with disabilities	Ms. Joan Carthy
Consumers	Ms Michelle Reid

Apologies:

Representing the interests of Business	Ms. Ann Campbell
An Garda Síochána	Superintendent Tom Murphy

NTA Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Eddie Fullerton (Compliance Manager)
Ms. Jackie Mullen (Secretary)

1. Minutes and Matters Arising.

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

(NTA's Compliance Manager joined the meeting)

2. NTA Update

Eddie Fullerton gave a presentation on the statistical update to the end of July. The Committee raised concerns regarding the time lag between a new driver passing the test to becoming fully licenced and operating. What if anything, can be done to speed up this process? The NTA informed the committee that the garda vetting process is very thorough and takes time to complete in full. NTA does not have any input into this process but will liaise with An Garda Síochána to see if the process can be accelerated.

A query was also raised about the conversion rate from the number of applicants passing the test and going on to be fully licenced and operating. It would be helpful to know what the conversion rate is and where in the process applicants are dropping out. Are there any specific pinch points or barriers that might be hindering the process/causing people to drop out. It might be useful to carry out a pilot survey of a sample of new entrants and follow them through the process. It was agreed that this issue would be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

(NTA's Compliance Manager left the meeting)

3. Public Consultation process and the role of the Advisory Committee on SPSV's

The Chair informed the Committee that a Committee member had identified that in the past the Committee was given a brief overview on the public's feedback in advance of giving their own submission. The Committee agreed that this process would be preferable for any future public consultations

Advisory Committee Work plan

4. Roof Signs

The Chair requested members of the Committee to provide feedback on this issue by the 14th October so that a draft proposal could be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Data Capture / Technology

The Chair suggested that the Committee may wish to hold a special meeting on this issue. In the meantime he requested that the matter should be put on the agenda for next month's meeting and that members could forward any initial ideas/views on the matter in advance of next month's meeting

6. AOB

In relation to the recent announcement of a further extension to the maximum permissible vehicle age some Committee members raised concerns about the safety of vehicles and the possibility of having twice yearly checks.

The Chair referred to the recent Oireachtas Committee meeting on issues impacting the taxi industry. Some contributors at the Oireachtas Committee meeting had expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation and representation of industry members. The Chair stated that he is open to holding a sub-committee meeting with industry representatives based on a proposed agenda.

A concern was raised regarding applications for eSPSV grants and the availability of vehicles. Applicants can avail of an extension period of up to 3 months.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th October 10.30am (Hybrid meeting)

Signed: _____ **Dated** _____