

Minutes Advisory Committee on SPSV's

Hybrid meeting

Thursday 27th July 2023 10.30am

Present:

Chairperson	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
Representing SPSV and driver interests	Mr. John Murphy, Mr. Francis Doheny, Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury
Special interest or expertise	Mr. James O'Brien
An Garda Síochána	Superintendent Tom Murphy
Representing the interests of older persons	Ms. Mai Quaid
Representing special interest or expertise	Ms. Fiona Brady
Representing the interests of tourism	Mr. Paul Keeley
Representing the interests of persons with disabilities	Ms. Joan Carthy
Representing the interests of Local Authorities	Mr. Brendan O'Brien

Apologies:

Representing the interests of consumers	Ms. Michelle Reid
Representing special interest or expertise	Mr. Noel Ebbs
Representing the interests of business	Ms. Ann Campbell
Representing special interest or expertise	Mr. Paul Gregan

NTA Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Shauna Duffy (Acting-Secretary), Ms. Roisin Cullinan (Head of Licensing Regulation)

1. Minutes and Matters arising

The minutes of the June meeting were approved with no amendment.

2. General Discussion

Superintendent Tom Murphy raised discussion on DAA permits. He said that a number of permits for DAA were not issued. Con questioned the legality of the permits with regard to the regulations. DAA rules are that to be licenced in Dublin airport you must be licenced for County Dublin. The question of pre-booking was raised, and it was stated that a driver licenced for any county can take a pre-booked journey. It was stated that in some counties such as Cork and Kerry (airports) airport you can get a permit to work there, but you don't have to be licenced for the respective counties. The legality of this was queried.

It was agreed by Paul Keely and the Chairperson that chauffeur driving would be re-visited in September/October, Paul is doing some research on it.

James O'Brien raised a query on exchanges. If a standard taxi completes an exchange to a WAV, how long must the licence owner wait before they can convert the vehicle licence back to a standard taxi? Shauna Duffy (acting-secretary for Jackie Mullen and a member of the NTA Taxi Regulation Department) advised that, outside of the grant, the vehicle could complete another exchange back to standard taxi at any stage – for the relevant fee. If they vehicle that was converted to a WAV is going to be used as the vehicle for the standard licence, with some adjustments made, another Technical Assessors Full Report would be required. If the vehicle was part of the WAV grant however, the licence would either need to serve the three year service period or repay the grant on a pro-rata scale.

3. NTA Update

The NTA update was previously circulated to the members. Roisin advised that there was still funding for the eSPSV grant and that it would be pushed on social media by DTTAS and NTA. It is difficult to put accurate figures on the number of eVehicles that may be added to the fleet at this stage as there is a nine month provisional grant offer period.

4. Driver Check App

Fiona Brady suggested adding some information to the Driver Check App to advise passengers on how to read the tamper proof discs. Con asked that the committee take a look at the app and suggest any changes they think should be made. Fiona suggested integrating the fare estimator and Roisin said this is something that was being looked into already by NTA. NTA are also looking at the compliments page to make it more user friendly. Rosin advised that there are media campaigns scheduled for August, October and December to promote the Driver Check App. NTA to provide some statistics on the Driver Check App for the next meeting.

NTA official leaves the meeting

4. Advice on cancelled bookings and the practice of multi-apping

The committee agreed that the act of cancelling bookings was more on the customer side than the driver side. It was discussed whether the issue of multi-apping and subsequent cancelling by the customer was a big enough issue for NTA to intervene, and if it was even something they could intervene in. It was suggested that NTA could raise awareness about this issue, but additionally if awareness is raised is this drawing attention to the fact that it can be done.

The Chair agreed to contact NTA regarding the issue and ask them to work with the app companies to see if there is something that can be done.

5. Driver Guide Course for SPSV Drivers

No issues raised.

6. Data Capture / Technology

No issues raised.

4. AOB

Paul Keeley asked that taxi companies are encouraged to be out for the college football crowds leaving the Aviva on 27th August.

The next meeting of the Committee will in person and will take place on Thursday 28th September.

Signed:

Dated: