

**Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs
Minutes**

24th April 2025, 10.30 am.
NTA Office, Haymarket House, Smithfield, Dublin.

Present:

Chairperson	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
<i>Representing</i>	
Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests	Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury Mr. John Murphy, Mr. Francis Doheny
Special Interest or Expertise in Matters Relating to the Functions of the Authority, the Advisory Committee or Related Matters.	Mr. Harpreet Singh Mr. James O'Brien Ms. Christine O'Connor Mr. Der Calnan
The Interests of Consumers	Mr. Adrian Cummins
The Interests of Business	Ms. Ann Campbell
The Interests of An Garda Siochana	Superintendent Tom Murphy
The Interests of Local Authorities	Mr. Brendan O'Brien
The Interests of Tourism	Mr. Paul Keeley

Apologies:

Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests	Mr. Alan Cooley
The Interests of Persons with Disabilities	Mr. John Fulham

The Interests of Older Persons	Ms. Mai Quaid
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NTA Representatives in Attendance

Ms. Roisin Cullinan, *Head of Licensing* (partial attendance)

Mr. Jakub Szynal, *Secretary to the Advisory Committee on SPSVs*

10.30am Advisory Committee

1. Welcome new members

Two new members of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs were welcomed by the Chair, Der Calnan of TDORA and Christine O'Connor of Lynk. The Chair explained the functions of the committee and gave an overview of the work being carried out currently, notably the draft recommendations for the NTA and Minister for Transport. Introductions ensued around the table. The Chair had highlighted that although every member comes from a different background, representing different interests, a consensus is always reached.

Paul Keeley, representing the interests of Tourism had resigned and this was his final meeting. The Advisory Committee on SPSVs wished him well in all his future endeavours.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 27th March 2025 and actions arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March were agreed with no amendments.

3. Correspondence received

The Chair announced to the Advisory Committee that Minister O'Brien will be attending next month's meeting. Members were welcomed to raise any issues they deem important on the day.

Representatives from FreeNow will attend the meeting in June in light of the merger with Lyft.

NTA Representative joined the meeting.

10.45 dvisory Committee + NTA

4. NTA Update

NTA provided an overview of March licensing statistics.

Members of the Advisory Committee raised concerns about drivers' perception of being refused NTA's new, free WAV training. NTA stated that the training is available and that drivers are not being refused a training slot. Priority training slots are given to drivers

availing of the WAV grant, however, anyone wishing to apply will receive a slot regardless of application for the grant, albeit potentially at a later date. There are no refusals for this training, and it is free of charge. NTA stated they knew that this information was what was being given out by its Information Line staff, but that it would reconfirm this. [Details on how to apply can be found here.](#)

Members of the Committee expressed interest in undertaking this WAV training. NTA noted that a session could be facilitated. The Advisory Committee will revert to NTA on this matter.

A member of the Advisory Committee raised the increasing costs of vehicles, noting that they seemed to have coincided with the increase of the WAV grant. NTA was queried about this issue during previous meetings with the Advisory Committee on SPSVs, and it was found that rising costs of WAVs tracked with the general price surges across the automotive industry. It was generally acknowledged that the increase in the maximum level of the WAV Grant in 2023 had led to the significant increase in application numbers.

The WAV grant system was discussed. NTA reaffirmed its position that in the interest of fairness, there is no preferential treatment for applicants and the grant operates on a first come first served basis.

Local Area Hackneys were discussed. NTA noted that it is currently reviewing the process and related regulations with a view to supporting rural SPSV transport provision.

NTA noted that the results of the first round of WAV 2025 grants should be available by the end of June, with Round 2 opening in July.

The increased taxi fares were discussed, with a member noting that the costs are too high for consumers. NTA noted that the fare increase was targeted at late night social hours to incentivise drivers to operate during those times. It was noted that this increase is the Maximum Fares Order, and as such, the maximum fare a driver can charge the passenger. Drivers are free to charge their customers lower prices should they wish to do so.

NTA Representative left the meeting.

The Advisory Committee worked on the draft report on the recommendations for NTA and DoT.

The Chair had reminded that Minister O'Brien will be in attendance at the May meeting.

5. AOB

The Chair had asked if there was any other business, there was none.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 29th May 2025.