

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs

Minutes

25th September 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. Alan Cooley
Special Interest or Expertise in Matters Relating to the Functions of the Authority, the Advisory Committee or Related Matters.	Mr. Harpreet Singh Ms. Christine O'Connor Mr. Der Calnan
The Interests of Consumers	Mr. Adrian Cummins
The Interests of Older Persons	Ms. Mai Quaid
An Garda Siochana	Superintendent Tom Murphy
The Interests of Local Authorities	Mr. Brendan O'Brien

Apologies:

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

NTA Representatives in Attendance

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

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

Minutes

Advisory Committee on SPSVs – September Meeting

1. July Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st July were agreed with no amendments.

2. Appointments to Advisory Committee

The Chair announced that five new members have been appointed to the committee by the Minister. An induction session has been organised for all new members for the 30th October, followed by the usual Advisory Committee meeting.

3. Chairperson's meeting with NTA Board

The Chair had met with the NTA Board on Friday, 19th September, where he presented slides on the advices produced by the Advisory Committee. He stressed the importance of the recommendation to establish a long-term strategy for the future of the SPSV sector, and the Board acknowledged its importance.

An NTA representative responsible for developing the next NTA strategy document will attend a future Advisory Committee meeting to discuss strategies in light of this.

NTA Representative joined the meeting.

4. NTA Update – Local Area Hackney

The NTA on its draft proposals for Local Area Hackney (LAH) licences. The NTA set out the key legislative amendments being considered for consultation. NTA will publish the consultation paper shortly, with aim to develop and publish its decision in January 2026, with an implementation date to follow should the proposals be accepted.

NTA discussed the existing approach to LAH licensing, noting the feedback that has been received from applicants and local communities that were unsuccessful. The NTA noted this feedback has formed part of its review.

An industry representative on the advisory committee queried the work visa requirements for SPSV drivers. The NTA noted it was not the SPSV driver licensing authority. The NTA stated it would provide the guidance, if available.

The revisions to the local area knowledge exam were queried. NTA indicated its desire to dispel any rumours about the test being oversimplified or that there was any change to the Garda vetting process, and asked that industry representatives counter anything they hear to the contrary. While, in line with the 2022 EU recommendations, the exam is being modernised by accounting for the prevalent use of journey apps by drivers, area knowledge is still an integral part of the exam. As requested, the Secretary will circulate the existing NTA web links to the Advisory Committee that provides the information on the updated area knowledge test. There are no changes to the Garda vetting process.

The Chair gave a brief overview on the work the Advisory Committee will undertake to formulate a work plan for the rest of the year.

NTA Representative left the meeting.

5. Advisory Committee Workplan

During the July meeting, the Chair had asked all Members to submit suggestions towards the Advisory Committee work plan for the rest of the year. Upon discussion of these topics, the Advisory Committee on SPSVs agreed that the key focuses for this work plan will be driver safety, WAVs and WAV grants and the complaints system.

6. AOB

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

The induction session for all new members will take place on 30th October, followed by the usual Advisory Committee meeting at 10.30.