

## Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs

### Minutes

30th October 2025, 10.30 am.

NTA Office, Haymarket House, Smithfield, Dublin.

#### Present:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
<b><i>Representing</i></b>	
<b>Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests</b>	Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury Mr. Alan Cooley Mr. Anthony Kelly Mr. Francis Doheny
<b>Special Interest or Expertise in Matters Relating to the Functions of the Authority, the Advisory Committee or Related Matters.</b>	Mr. Harpreet Singh Ms. Christine O'Connor Mr. Der Calnan Mr. Alan Fox
<b>The Interests of Consumers</b>	Mr. Adrian Cummins Ms. Edith Geraghty
<b>An Garda Siochana</b>	Superintendent Tom Murphy
<b>The Interests of Local Authorities</b>	Mr. Brendan O'Brien
<b>The Interests of Persons with Disabilities</b>	Mr. John Fulham
<b>The Interests of Business</b>	Mr. Paul Nolan
<b>The Interests of Tourism</b>	Ms. Catherine Flanagan

#### Apologies:

<b>The Interests of Older Persons</b>	Ms. Mai Quaid
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**NTA Representatives in Attendance**

Mr. Carl Connolly, *Technical Advisor*

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

## **October Minutes**

### **1. Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and actions arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September were agreed with no amendments.

### **2. Appointments to Advisory Committee**

The Chair welcomed all the new members to their first Advisory Committee meeting. Introductions were given around the table.

The Chair had reminded all members about the ongoing consultations on Local Area Hackneys and FPNs live on the NTA website, closing at the end of November. He encouraged all members to submit their independent views.

Furthermore, NTA has launched a consultation on the Statement of Strategy 2026-2030, which the secretary will circulate to all members.

### **3. Protocols for taxis carrying luggage**

A member queried if there are protocols for SPSV drivers to stow away passenger luggage. It was noted while this is a common courtesy, it is unknown if there is an obligation or requirement for a driver to do so. The Advisory Committee will look into this.

### **4. Uniformity of Taxi Colours**

The Advisory Committee discussed uniformity of taxi colours, akin to other EU countries which often use a specific colour for taxis. A public consultation was carried out in 2011 regarding this, and ultimately, decals were chosen as visual taxi identifiers. There is scope for further discussion in terms of the Advisory Committee workplan.

*NTA's Technical Advisor joined the meeting*

### **5. Presentation from NTA's Technical Advisor**

The Chair welcomed NTA's Technical Advisor to the meeting.

NTA discussed global disruptions, and local factors, which have contributed to the increased prices of vehicles in Ireland since 2020. It was noted however that EV prices have reduced for both new and used models in 2025.

WAV conversions were discussed. NTA noted that prices of conversion components have not risen since 2019. NTA explained the pre- approval process for WAVs.

Tinted windows on vehicles were discussed. Members of the Advisory Committee noted that vehicles nowadays are fitted with tinted glass by default, and drivers have to pay additional costs to change them to clear glass. NTA noted that this was subject to the 2011 taxi regulation consultation, which found that clear glass was the preferred option for drivers due to safety. NTA upholds the requirement for clear glass.

NTA noted that the Taxi Cost Index, which supports the economic determination of the actual taxi fare includes a cost which is calculated on an annual basis for the ongoing replacement of required taxi equipment- including the replacement of non-compliant tinted glass.

WAV specifications were discussed, noting that they are governed by regulations and then further crash testing. The 'suitable vehicle list' which is available on the NTA website covers standard series produced vehicles not WAV's

*NTA's Technical Advisor left the meeting*

## **6. AOB**

The Chair reminded the Committee that Minister O'Brien will be attending the meeting next month.

In light of the ongoing work on the work plan, the Advisory Committee will have an additional meeting in December. The Secretary will send out details to all members.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November at the NTA offices.