

## Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs

### Minutes

11th December 2025, 10.30 am.

NTA Office, Haymarket House, Smithfield, Dublin.

#### Present:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
<b>Representing</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 Mr. Der Calnan
<b>The Interests of Consumers</b>	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 Tourism</b>	Ms. Catherine Flanagan

#### Apologies:

<b>The Interests of Older Persons</b>	Ms. Mai Quaid
<b>The Interests of Consumers</b>	Mr. Adrian Cummins
<b>Special Interest or Expertise in Matters Relating to the Functions of the Authority, the Advisory Committee or Related Matters.</b>	Ms. Christine O'Connor Mr. Alan Fox

<b>The Interests of Business</b>	Mr. Paul Nolan
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**NTA Representatives in Attendance**

Mr. Kevin O'Brien, *Director for Transport Regulation*

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

**Department of Transport Representatives in Attendance**

Ms. Clare Finnegan

Mr. Brandon Cogley

## December Minutes

**NOTE: The meeting was scheduled to deal exclusively with the WAV service but following an urgent request from the Minister for Transport for advices on recent issues surrounding fixed fares, the majority of the meeting was taken up on that issue.**

### **1. Fixed Fares**

Recent taxi driver protests regarding fixed price fares were discussed. DoT requested advice from the Advisory Committee on SPSVs regarding this issue.

It was noted by NTA that fixed price fares are permitted under legislation, provided they do not exceed the maximum fares order.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the role of taxi booking apps in the SPSV industry, noting that they have become embedded in the culture for drivers and passengers alike. However, this development is not contemplated in the Taxi Regulation Act 2013.

Upon deliberation, the Advisory Committee gave the following recommendations to the Department of Transport and National Transport Authority:

1. Maintain the regulatory model for SPSVs in Ireland which requires that all drivers and vehicles are licenced, keeping public safety at the heart of the regulatory framework.
2. Recognise the essential role of SPSV drivers and the services they provide, including access to essential services.
3. Given changes in the taxi sector since the Taxi Regulation Act 2013, there is a need to assess whether legislation is up to date regarding the roles of technology and booking app dispatch operators in the sector.
4. Allow for more dispatch operator data to be available to the regulator to assist it in undertaking its role and examine technology charges in the sector.
5. Recognise that there is a role for an “agreed price” in the industry between a driver and customer, which is a different concept to a “fixed fare.” It was noted that receipts issued by drivers reflect the meter price, not the agreed or fixed fare.

**\*To note; if a passenger agrees to pay an “agreed price” then the receipt will state the higher metered fare. Advisory Committee notes this discrepancy which creates a gap between the fare reported and the fare received. This discrepancy means that the fare received may be significantly less than reported on the system.**

\*this addendum added and agreed to during Advisory Committee meeting on 26th February 2026

## **2. WAV Service Workshop**

The Advisory Committee on SPSVs discussed wheelchair accessible vehicle services. The increase in WAVs in the fleet was recognised, noting the yearly improvement in numbers. Members agreed however, that service quality requires improvement, as wheelchair users continue to face challenges in securing WAV taxis.

Various enforcement and regulatory options were discussed.

## **3. AOB**

Representatives from the DoT and NTA expressed their appreciation to the Chair for his dedicated service to the Advisory Committee on SPSVs over the past several years and extended best wishes for his future endeavours. The Chair thanked the committee for their support and hard work and wished them well, also expressing appreciation to former committee members, NTA and the Department of Transport officials, and gave a special word of thanks to Kuba Szynal, secretary to the committee.