

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs

Minutes

27th November 2025, 10.00 am.

NTA Office, Haymarket House, Smithfield, Dublin.

Present:

Chairperson	Mr. Cornelius O'Donohue
Representing	
Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests	Mr. Alan Cooley Mr. Anthony Kelly 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. Der Calnan Mr. Alan Fox
The Interests of Consumers	Mr. Adrian Cummins Ms. Edith Geraghty
An Garda Siochana	Superintendent Tom Murphy
The Interests of Persons with Disabilities	Mr. John Fulham
The Interests of Business	Mr. Paul Nolan
The Interests of Tourism	Ms. Catherine Flanagan

Apologies:

Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests	Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury
Special Interest or Expertise in Matters Relating to the Functions of the Authority, the Advisory Committee or Related Matters.	Ms. Christine O'Connor
The Interests of Local Authorities	Mr. Brendan O'Brien

NTA Representatives in Attendance

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

Ms. Roisin Cullinan, *Head of Licensing*

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

Department of Transport Representatives in Attendance

Minister Darragh O'Brien

Ms. Clare Finnegan

Ms. Úna McDermott

Mr. Brandon Cogley

November Minutes

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 30th October 2025 and Actions Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th October were agreed with no amendments.

The Advisory Committee discussed recently received correspondence.

Minister O'Brien, DoT representatives and NTA representatives joined the meeting.

2. Minister O'Brien's visit

The Chair welcomed Minister O'Brien and his team to the meeting.

The Chair queried the Department of Transport (DoT) regarding the legal advice requested on article 19 of the UN Convention. DoT noted that work is ongoing, with the aim of producing the advice by early 2026.

The WAV grant scheme was discussed. The Chair advised that an additional meeting will take place on the 11th December, serving as a workshop on WAV services. Representatives from the DoT were invited to attend.

The taxi driver protest, scheduled later in the day, was discussed. Minister O'Brien noted that he had written to the NTA on 19th November requesting advice on this matter.

A member raised concerns about reverse charge models exposing drivers to VAT liabilities. A recently established regulation in Poland was referenced, which prohibits reverse charging and requires invoices to be issued locally. Minister O'Brien advised the member to submit a letter to the Department of Finance, with the Minister copied. In the interim, the Polish regulations will be reviewed.

NTA confirmed that work on the Local Area Hackney scheme is underway, with the public consultation closing shortly. Findings from this consultation will be presented before the NTA Board in Q1 2026.

The Advisory Committee noted ongoing difficulties for wheelchair users in securing accessible taxis. It was queried whether increased Compliance Officer presence is required for enforcement.

Minister O'Brien reaffirmed his commitment to achieving a fully accessible public transport network. A member emphasized that discussions on accessibility should always include representation from persons with disabilities.

As the Chair's term comes to an end on the 31st December 2025, he expressed his thanks to the Minister for taking the time to meet the Committee twice this year, and

also expressed his thanks to the Department of Transport and NTA officials who have supported him in his role over the past six and a half years. The Minister gave his thanks to the Chair for all his contributions to the Committee over the past years and extended his best wishes for the Chair's future endeavours.

Minister O'Brien and DoT representatives left the meeting.

3. NTA Update

A member suggested an app for development, designed for SPSV drivers. This app could contain all the relevant documents for SPSV drivers, including the code of conduct and SPSV industry manual. Communications could also be issued through this app. The NTA noted that all this information is available on the NTA website. The Chair proposed that they will consider this suggestion further, noting there are many competing suggestions for the NTA to consider.

The NTA provided an update on the Local Area Hackney public consultation that was closing the next day. A matter is expected to go to the NTA Board for decision early in the New Year.

The NTA provided an update on the WAV26 and eSPSV26 grant schemes.

The Chair noted that the added December meeting of the Advisory Committee would now be a WAV workshop. The workshop is scheduled for 11th December and NTA attendance to provide information on the WAV grant scheme was requested. The NTA noted that it could provide this information ahead of the meeting to aid discussions - the Committee expressed a preference for personal attendance. The Chair, noting the past work of the Committee in relation to raw data and at the same time the anecdotal evidence from numerous sources of the lived experience of those who require a WAV, the purpose of the workshop was to explore if there might be opportunities through the grant scheme to improve this lived experience. The NTA confirmed that the WAV26 scheme will proceed as planned in January, but that it welcomed any insights of the Committee into supporting WAV service provision by SPSV operators.

Lost property being left behind in taxis was discussed. It was noted that drivers are obliged to submit any lost property to An Garda Síochána.

The matter of providing assistance with luggage was discussed with the NTA clarifying that reasonable assistance should be provided.

Drivers availing of grants but not partaking in WAV work were discussed. The Advisory Committee reiterated the concern that more Compliance Officers would be beneficial for enforcement of this matter.

NTA noted the issue of taxis blocking bus lanes and Luas tracks on busy streets. NTA noted it is discussing the matter with Dublin City Council.

4. AOB

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

The next meeting will take place on 11th December, at the NTA Office.