

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs

26th February 2026, 10.30 am.

NTA Office, Haymarket House, Smithfield, Dublin.

Present:

Interim Chairperson	Ms. Catherine Flanagan
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 Ms. Christine O'Connor Mr. Der Calnan Mr. Alan Fox
The Interests of Consumers	Mr. Adrian Cummins
An Garda Siochana	Superintendent Tom Murphy
The Interests of Local Authorities	Mr. Brendan O'Brien
The Interests of Persons with Disabilities	Mr. John Fulham
The Interests of Business	Mr. Paul Nolan

Apologies:

The Interests of Older Persons	Ms. Mai Quaid
Small Public Service Vehicle and Driver Interests	Mr. Shajedul Chowdhury

NTA Representatives in Attendance

Mr. Ritchie Hogan, *Senior Facilities Executive*

Ms. Jen Moran, *Secretary to the Advisory Committee on SPSVs*

NTA Facilities joined the meeting

1. NTA Facilities – evacuation procedures

NTA Facilities carried out their evacuation induction presentation.

NTA Facilities left the meeting

2. Note apologies and any conflicts of interest

Condolences were shared for Edith Geraghty, who passed away just after Christmas. Members wanted to acknowledge her contributions and how they were grateful for her time in the Advisory Committee.

Thanks were then passed on to Cornelius O’Donohue for his time as Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Interim chair noted apologies and clarified if there were any conflicts of interest; none were raised.

3. Approval of minutes for meetings on 27th November and 11th December 2025

Interim Chair pointed out a possible discrepancy in December minutes; that clarification was needed regarding receipts to which the Committee agreed. Requested NTA address this discrepancy and how it can be managed. It was agreed a follow up note was needed to send onto DoT for a possible addendum.

No notes for November minutes.

Both minutes accepted with above mentioned addendum to be added to December.

4. Any correspondence received

Advisory Committee confirmed no further correspondence received.

5. NTA provided update/statistics on the three following items:

• Local Area Hackney consultation conducted Q4 2025

It was acknowledged by the Advisory Committee that LAH numbers going up is a positive thing. Committee requested NTA clarify the LAH changes in more detail. It was also noted that clarification is required for the public regarding Hackney and LAH; to explain exactly what they are.

Ride sharing was briefly discussed as the Advisory Committee raised safety issues; the possibility that part time drivers are not covered for accidents when carrying passengers. If a serious incident would have to occur for such safety issues to be looked at and discussed in more detail.

- **Round 1 of WAV grants for 2026**

Members of the Advisory Committee raised the point that a WAV already serving the community for a long time should not have to take part in a lottery and it should be ensured that WAV drivers are not lost as a result of the new lottery system.

The cost of WAVs was also discussed; how the limited supply results in a higher cost. Interim Chair asked for any comments on the eSPSV grant which had opened the day before. Members questioned why the grant amounts have been reduced this time.

The Advisory Committee then discussed the Compliance statistics presented in the NTA provided slides. They stated the number of Compliance officers is very low and have requested confirmation of the total number currently working in the country.

- **Opening of consultation on Dispatch Operator licensing**

Advisory Committee have requested clarification regarding the Dispatch Operator consultation. Interim Chair confirmed NTA will attend the next meeting to discuss this in further detail.

6. Discussion on publication of CCPC report on consumer attitudes to taxi services, and ministerial response

Interim Chair clarified the CCPC report is a public opinion piece. Majority of the Advisory Committee agreed that the report made a sweeping policy recommendation which would transform the industry based on a small amount of respondents. The research and data involved was questioned, were people with disabilities represented? The timing of the report was also questioned in addition to the outcome following the media attention from its publication. A Member highlighted how the report could inform the Advisory Committee and how to approach the issues raised in it.

Interim Chair acknowledged Minister O'Brien's quick response to the report.

Advisory Committee expressed interest in seeing a fuller report, if one is available. Suggestion was made to request CCPC attend a meeting to discuss the report in more detail.

7. PSV18 – renewal of driver licences

A Member of the Advisory Committee questioned why RAC is necessary as part of this process. It was explained by another Member that another group is currently discussing the revision of this process; work is still ongoing with a possible conclusion later this year.

8. Discussion on Advisory Committee work plan for 2026

Interim Chair raised the subject of driver safety. Members of the Advisory Committee acknowledged internal cameras in the vehicle are beneficial to both the driver and the consumer in this regard. Pricing of this technology was raised as an issue. Request was made for a Data Protection Officer in the NTA to attend a meeting to discuss this further, particularly in regards to safety and legal issues.

A Member requested the CCPC report be added to the work plan.

A Member raised an issue with the framework of the tiered pricing system; how they did not recommend it and say it has not led to an increase in the amount of drivers working at night.

The issue of so many different taxi meters currently being used was also raised by Members.

Suggestion made for a Freenow representative to attend a meeting to present a report recently brought before the Oireachtas. Interim Chair requested this be sent onto her first to pre-read.

9. AOB

Interim Chair asked for any interest in dialling into meetings going forward.

Majority of Members confirmed they prefer attending in person, one expressed interest in dialling in.

Interim Chair also asked for preference in frequency of meetings, majority agreed every month.

Member representing An Garda Síochána; Superintendent Tom Murphy announced he will be retiring soon and February will be his last Advisory Committee meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 26th March at the NTA offices.