

Utilities Services Working Group

Minutes from meeting held 14th September 2023

Teams Meeting

Attendees

Secretary / Chair

Dan Crutchington Logistics UK

Members

Ben Anstee	Vehicle Lease & Service
Greg Askeil	Vehicle Lease & Service
Louise Barnes	Wessex Water
Simon Bodley	Novuna
Dave Burn	Vehicle Lease & Service
Alexander Clark	Balfour Beatty
Sarah Cooper	Northern Gas
Julie Davies	Amey
Karen Grant	Novuna
Graham Hallsworth	OCU Group
Andrew Jones	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Stephen Kirby	Morgansin Dall
Radomir Korcz	Uk Power Networks
Jonathan Medforth	Tarmac
Adrian Pinsent	Skanska UK Plc
Stephen Offley	Wales & West Utilities Ltd
Dave Willis	Kier

Logistics UK Staff

Tom Griffith	Logistics UK
Jacqui Hillhouse	Logistics UK
Phil Lloyd	Logistics UK

Apologies

Sheree Baseley
David Leggett
Neil Connolly
Adam Hope
Adrian Wanford
Jeff Bawden
Csaba Ujvari
Emily Stewart
Mark Simmonds
Frederic Kein
Mark Johnson
Neil Hodson'

Kate Markey
Martin Candish
Steve Hunter
Mark Dixon
George Mcchord
Neil Walton
Ash Shepherd
Andy Starkey
Kelvin Hillman
George Mullen
Paul Goss
David Hibbs
Neil Withers
Laszlo Soriano
Adam Goode
Chris Mayell
Paul Tucker
Jamie Maddison
Ian Walker
Gary Jones
Andy Young
Lin Walker
Kate Wilson
Lee Jackson
Neil Duffy
Jerry Ganner
Chris Davies
John Moore
Elaine Pringle
Sandy Duff
Ross Shepherd
Allan Jones
Chris Wand
Lee Allen
Carl Doyle
Martin Shaw
Martin Kemp
Amy Turner
Martin Crocker
Stuart Jones

1. Introduction and welcome

Members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting, by Dan Crutchington, group secretary. Apologies were taken, including group chair Mark Johnson. Group Secretary Dan Crutchington agreed to step in as meeting chair. Members were reminded of meeting conduct, with full details as part of meeting papers.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and signed off as a correct and accurate recording of the previous meeting. Actions from the meeting were discussed and updated on the ongoing progress of any outstanding issues.

Previous actions:

Action: Invite Phil Roe to next meeting to discuss in person and further understanding of group.

Status: Ongoing. Teams meeting for this meeting.

Action: Members to register interest in Generation Logistics campaign with group secretary to begin process to enrol.

Status: Ongoing. Members still invited to register with group secretary.

Action: Logistics UK representatives to enquire regarding DGSA refresher training in a Midlands location, as currently none planned.

Status: Completed. More courses being added in other areas.

Action: Feedback to training department on groups requirements.

Status: Completed. Feedback presented at inter-departmental meeting.

Action: Dan Crutchington to distribute general feedback on consultation response to group. Consultation on changes to MOT regime.

Status: Complete. Agenda item for this meeting.

Action: Link to consultation document to be distributed so that individuals can respond if required.

Status: Complete.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington to create poll for members to select their top three topics for the next meeting.

Status: Complete. Poll was distributed as part of original meeting invite.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington to update group at next meeting on any changes regarding gritting vehicles.

Status: Ongoing. This focussed on gritters spreading graphite to cool roads. No update at present.

3. MOT consultation update and OBD access

Following on from last meeting, members were updated on the MOT consultation response submitted by Logistics UK, confirmed that an response was expected shortly. This was then followed by a discussion regarding access to OBD ports during the MOT test, which originated from a call into the Members Advice Centre. The discussion involved differing positions adopted regarding access to this port.

Members highlighted issues around the security of the vehicle and the implementation of locks to stop access through this port. Feedback was that there had not been any issue with access to this port for MOT, but were aware that ongoing technical development meant that changes to the MOT could mean access was required to ensure the vehicle

was operating correctly and that the information could be retrieved from the on board computer.

Action: Phil Lloyd to update group secretary on feedback from meeting regarding MOT consultation. Dan Crutchington to circulate feedback once received.

4. Transitioning to digital tachographs

The group were invited to share their stories and advice on transitioning to digital tachographs for recording domestic hours. The discussion was productive with a clear focus on ensuring that several areas were taken into consideration:

- Training the drivers correctly, using different methods such as in-company videos, various documentation, and training materials.
- Transitioning slowly. Members agreed that the transition would not be an overnight switch, but would be undertaken over a prolonged period, with a small number of operatives or sites making the switch with others to follow once the process had been 'bedded-in'.
- Approaching the switch with the correct mindset to ensure that drivers were not seeing this as a means for 'catching them out'.

A MAC Fact Sheet has been produced regarding this and will be included as part of the meeting papers. The discussion then expanded on the benefits of the transition, which included large amounts of data that could be used to identify:

- Vehicle utilisation for both operational needs and budgetary requirements.
- Operative performance can be managed with greater accuracy than paper forms.
- Closer to real-time feedback to operational teams on driver and vehicle performance.
- Ability to use the information and utilisation to better manage CO2 emissions in order to report more accurate information.
- Reduced administration time allowing better efficiencies for those involved.

The discussion further expanded to encompass transitioning from paper-based systems to digital systems, including pre-use checks and defect reporting. The discussion points were largely similar with similar advice points as those above for moving to digital tachographs and members agreed that there were previously unforeseen benefits to the move.

Action: Dan Crutchington to distribute MAC Fact Sheet on use of digital tachographs for operations covered by GB Domestic drivers' hours.

5. DVSA load security guidance

Members had previously raised the issue of load security and securing of plant equipment and were invited to discuss the issue further now that the updated Safety of Loads on Vehicles had been released and the changes within the document.

The discussion centred around the use of vehicle chocks and the requirement to secure them as they would be classed as insecure if they were not secured in some manner.

Use of sheets for vehicles designed to carry bulk materials was also covered, and member shared new methods that had been employed as part of the requirement to secure awkward items, such as wheelbarrows or shovels. One member of the group shared a ratchet cover that allowed the items to be loosely loaded with the cover acting as the restraining method. Additionally, a member shared a method of cone strapping which was to be distributed after the meeting.

Action: Group secretary to distribute details of various load security methods that members had implemented within their business.

6. Wheel loss procedures

Discussions centred around the methods members used to reduce wheel loss. Conversation centred around simple principles to reduce the potential for this to happen, which included:

- Ensuring the surfaces were clean before wheels were fitted.
- Preventative checks completed by tyre contractor.
- Use of wheel nut indicators.

The group discussed challenges faced including fitter knowledge and use of subcontractors, so oversight was reduced.

7. Consultation responses

Previously, members had previously raised desire to increase profile of group, with one way of doing this being to respond to relevant consultations as and when they are released.

Members discussed the procedure, with valuable input from Phil Lloyd about how this is achieved, with the best way to produce a group response, and how this is then transitioned into Freight Council for consideration. It was also suggested that members with an interest could also respond in the capacity of an individual, as this may assist in highlighting the issue and shaping outcomes.

8. UK public policy update

As part of a reciprocal agreement with the Van Policy Working Group (VPWG), slides were presented to the group with an update on the work that the VPWG is currently engaged in, as there is overlap between the two groups. The last VPWG meeting was held on the 12th September, over Teams.

This included an update prepared by the VPWG secretary, Denise Beedell, Logistics UK Senior Policy Manager, on the current and recent consultations and events that Logistics UK have responded to and are involved in, with details of these provided as part of the slide deck.

One area of discussion was around restrictions of vans in residential areas, and members were invited to discuss whether this had caused any issues at present. While the feedback was that this was not an issue at present, it was highlighted that covenants, or parking restrictions, may affect rollouts of charging points being fitted by organisations for the use by operatives to charge work vehicles so may need looking into.

9. Any other business

Provisional dates were set for the 2024 meetings. These were to be:

- 14th March 2024
- 12th September 2024

Meetings are still planned to be face to face meetings, and confirmed dates will be provided closer to the time, with locations and agenda.

Members raised concerns over the reliance on electric vehicles to be the answer to net zero targets, with certain operations not being able to be achieved with current electric vehicle range and set-up. It was suggested that hydrogen vehicles may be a viable alternative, especially by those in the gas sector.

It was suggested that an update on the hydrogen market may be useful to potentially alleviate concerns over the adoption of these types of vehicles.

Members were also asked if alternatively fuelled machinery was being considered at this stage, or if the reliance would remain currently on diesel for the time being, with members responding that the road vehicles were the primary concern at present.

Action: Group secretary to contact relevant potential speakers to attend next meeting, agenda permitting.