

Chief Executive and Director's report

Overview of Logistics UK

Logistics UK is one of the country's largest business groups, supporting, shaping and standing up for safe, sustainable and efficient logistics. We are the only organisation representing the entire logistics sector.

What we represent

We represent a sector delivering an increasingly innovative, productive and sustainable system of essential national infrastructure. This system ensures the availability of the products that households, businesses and public services rely on every day, and is supporting the UK's transformation for the future.

Our membership of over 20,000 includes global, national and regional businesses and SMEs spanning the road, rail, sea and air industries as well as the buyers of freight services, such as retailers and manufacturers.

Our key policy asks

Innovative and integrated infrastructure:

- A 30-year infrastructure plan for the delivery of a national freight network, including transport, warehousing and other facilities, backed by funded five-year delivery plans, so businesses can invest with confidence.
- Innovation funding to be focused on the delivery of a green, efficient and integrated logistics system, including both R&D and the implementation of new approaches.
- Deliver secure, resilient supply chains for the UK through infrastructure investment and strategy, and planning approvals/policies – from major and multimodal infrastructure to facilities.

Fair transition to a green economy:

- Reform and investment across a host of policy areas to provide a strong business case for investing in the green transition.
- Electric charging roadmap designed with businesses to work for logistics vehicles, backed with clear guidance and incentives for local authorities, and a fair and equitable approach for funding electricity connections to enable the expansion of depot charging for electric vehicles.

Skills partnership to support a thriving sector:

- Investment in and planning approvals for logistics facilities, to improve the welfare of logistics workers and improve the sector's ability to attract a diverse pool of talent.
- The UK government to work with the sector to monitor and manage acute skills shortages, including through the use of skills bootcamps and targeted migration.

Trade as a driver of innovation and productivity:

- Trade policy codesigned between government and the logistics industry, to support imports, exports and inward investment, and to put innovation and decarbonisation to be at the core of government trade policy.

Q1 Achievements – Strategic Round tables and events

- David Wells joined the DfT Freight Council and Chaired the DfT Motorist Forum with Roads Minister Richard Holden.
- David also joined the launch of the Transport Focus report on driver facilities which was attended by the Minister.
- Nichola Mallon, Head of Trade and Devolved joined meetings with the Prime Minister, Secretary of State, Leader of the Opposition, Irish Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic to discuss the Windsor Framework.
- Kate Jennings, Policy Director represented members at the first meeting of the Future of Flight Industry Board – Chaired by Aviation Minister Baroness Vere and Minister for Decarbonisation, Jesse Norman.
- Jonathan Walker, Head of Cities and Infrastructure, gave evidence to the Transport Select Committee on roads investment.
- Our Supply Chain Resilience conference was attended by over 80 senior level delegates who heard from speakers including Alan McKinnon, Professor of Logistics and Iain Forbes, DfT Director of Logistics and Borders.
- Our joint Air Freight event with Airlines UK had over 80 attendees and heard from the Shadow Exports Minister and DfT Aviation leads.
- We organised a number of strategic roundtables including a low carbon fuel round table in Parliament – hosted by Greg Smith, Chair of the APPG for Road Freight and Logistics. Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) briefed members on NIC plans for the national infrastructure assessment.
- Minister for Northern Ireland, Steve Baker joined our Northern Ireland Freight Council.
- We organised the Generation Logistics Parliamentary reception and Logistics Day hosted by DHL and Amazon at East Midlands Gateway both events were attended by the Roads Minister.
- We responded to 7 consultations including the HMT budget consultation, Senior Traffic Commissioner guidance, CPC consultation and Transport Select Committee request for ideas for future reports and the Labour manifesto consultation.
- Engagement with the Shadow Cabinet included a Labour round table on electric vehicles hosted by Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haig.
- The team also ran 19 Councils including 13 local Freight Councils and national Road, Rail, Air and Shippers Councils, and 9 working groups including Public Affairs, Employment, Van and Environment and Warehouse Groups.
- And spoke at events including a Westminster Forum Transport Energy event with Caroline Lowe, Director Transport Decarbonisation, DfT and a High Speed Rail Group event on HS2 and rail freight.

Q1 Achievements – Media and Policy Wins

Media highlights included:

- More than 800 articles and broadcasts featuring Logistics UK were placed during Q1, including:
 - 17 broadcast interviews supported by the policy team – channels including BBC1 News, Sky News, LBC News and BBC SE.
 - Articles and interviews in national media including Daily Mail, Independent, The Times and BBC Online (the world's biggest website).
 - Topics featured included the Northern Ireland Protocol and Windsor Framework, the Retained EU Law Bill, Fines for HGV drivers and our campaign to improve driver facilities.

Policy Wins:

- The March Budget confirmed that fuel duty would not change – maintaining the 5p reduction introduced in March 2022, new flexible and returner apprenticeships were announced, and Government also announced a 100% capital investment allowances.
- Planning – Government has agreed to consult on changes to planning guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, and a new National Highways Circular recognise the need to consider the needs of the freight and logistics sector. A new DfT video explains how to strengthen planning applications for freight facilities
- Wales – DfT has announced funding for a study into the M4 and rail options and the Welsh roads review acknowledges the need to support road freight.
- The Transport Committee published a report on low carbon fuels (Fuelling the Future), which reflected many of Logistics UK's views on the need for direction from Government on the use of low carbon fuels across all transport modes.
- The Northern Ireland Windsor Framework reflected our asks to simplify GB – NI trade by introducing a green lane and expanded Trusted Trader Scheme.
- The Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness reflects our asks and avoids new proposals on brake testing which would have been prohibitively expensive
- Revised Statutory Documents from Senior Traffic Commissioner – the STC drafted new guidance, following the Upper Tribunal decision on Connor Construction case that followed advice offered by members to avoid overburdensome impact on licence authorisations and operating centres.
- Northern Ireland has aligned with GB rules by banning tyres which are over 10 years old – and Phase 2 of the new dualled A6 was completed, transforming a key strategic logistics route between Belfast and Derry.

Annex 1: Logistics UK meeting dates and events

May 2023

Freight Councils:

- Wednesday 3 – West Midlands, Coventry 09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday 3 – Scotland, Glasgow 12:30 - 15:30
- Thursday 4 – East Midlands, Derby 08:00 - 11:30
- Thursday 4 – North of England, Virtual meeting, 14:00 - 16:00
- Tuesday 16 – North West, Wigan, 13:00 - 16:00
- Tuesday 16 – South Central, Newbury, 09:30 - 13:00
- Wednesday 17 – Yorkshire and Humber Barnsley, 13:00 - 16:00
- Wednesday 17 – Greater London, London, 09:30 - 13:00
- Thursday 18 – East of England, Newmarket, 09:30 - 13:00
- Thursday 18 – Northern Ireland, Belfast, 09:30 - 12:30
- Tuesday 23 – Wales, Hensol, 09:30 - 13:00
- Wednesday 24 – South West, Yeovil, 10:00 - 13:00
- Thursday 25 – South East, Tunbridge Wells, 09:30 - 13:00

Engineering Forums:

- Wednesday 3 – Scotland, Glasgow 09:00 – 12:00
- Thursday 6 – Northern, Wigan, 12.30 – 17.00
- Wednesday 10 – Midlands, Solihull, 09:00 – 12:30
- Wednesday 17- Southern, London, 13:30 – 17:00

Councils:

- Thursday 25 - Joint Shippers and Customs and Trade Council, London, 11.00 – 13.00

Events:

- Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 – Coastlink conference, Liverpool, all day
- Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 – ITT Hub, Farnborough, all day
- Wednesday 24 – Sunday 28 - International Transport Forum (GL spotlight) (tbc)

June 2023

Councils:

- Tuesday 6 – Water Council, London, 10:30 – 13:00
- Thursday 8 – Road Council, London, 09:30 – 14:00
- Tuesday 13 - Van Policy Working Group, Virtual, 10:30 – 13:00
- Thursday 15 - Environment Working Group, Virtual, 10:30 – 13:00

Working Groups:

- Thursday 8 - Public Affairs Working Group, London, 14:00 – 16:00

Events:

- Wednesday 13 to Thursday 15 - Multi Modal, Birmingham, all day
- Thursday 22 - Fleet Engineer 2023 Conference, Warwickshire /Motor Museum
- Wednesday 28 - Road Transport Expo, Stoneleigh, all day

July 2023

Events:

- Tuesday 11- Next Generation Van Conference, Coventry, all-day

September 2023

Councils:

- Wednesday 13 - Presidents Board, London

Working Groups:

- Tuesday 12 - Van Policy Working Group, Virtual, 10:30 – 13:00
- Thursday 14 - Environment Working Group, Virtual, 10:30 – 13:00

Events:

- Thursday 7 to Friday 8 - NORDUK , London
- Friday 15 – Van Awards, all day
- Productivity report Launch event (tbc)
- Finance Director event (tbc)

Transport Manager:

- Thursday 21 – Yeovil, all day
- Wednesday 27 – Newcastle, all day

October 2023

Freight Councils:

- Tuesday 3 - South West
- Wednesday 4 - North West
- Thursday 5 - East of England
- Thursday 5 - Yorkshire & Humber
- Tuesday 10 - Wales
- Tuesday 10 - East Midlands
- Wednesday 11 - West Midlands
- Thursday 12 - Greater London
- Tuesday 17 - South East
- Wednesday 18 - South Central
- Wednesday 18 – Scotland
- Thursday 19 – Northern Ireland

Events:

- Monday 2 - Conservative Party Conference panel event, Manchester
- Tuesday 10 - Labour Party Conference panel event, Liverpool
- Productivity report launch (tbc)
- Scotland Modal shift roundtable (18 tbc)

Transport Manager:

- Tuesday 3 – Manchester
- Thursday 5 – Belfast
- Wednesday 11 – Doncaster
- Thursday 19 – Glasgow

November 2023

Councils:

- Thursday 2 – Road Council

Working Groups:

- Thursday 2 – Public Affairs Working Group

Events:

- Friday 3 – NI lunch
- Tuesday 21 – Delivering Decarbonisation Conference
- Friday 24 - Welsh lunch

Engineering Forums:

- Thursday 16 – Northern, Leeds (tbc)
- Wednesday 22- Southern, Newbury (tbc)
- Tuesday 28, Scotland (location tbc)

Transport Manager:

- Tuesday 7 – Peterborough
- Friday 10 – Virtual TM
- Tuesday 14 – London
- Thursday 23 – Cardiff
- Thursday 30 – Birmingham

December 2023

Events:

- Thursday 7 - Logistics Awards

Engineering Forums:

- Wednesday 6 – Midlands (location tbc)