

Utilities Services Working Group

Minutes from meeting held 10th November 2022

Logistics UK, Number Three, Siskin Drive, Coventry

Attendees

Chair

Mark Johnson Welsh Water

Secretary

Dan Crutchington Logistics UK

Speakers

James Benjamin Ford Pro

Stephen Cave DVSA - online

Members

Dave Burn Vehicle Lease and Service

Alex Clark Balfour Beatty

Julie Davies Amey

John Moore Scottish Power

Adrian Pinsent Skanska

Paul Tucker National Grid

Dave Willis Kier Group

Andy Young Volker Wessels UK

Logistics UK Staff

Martin Candish Logistics UK

Ian Dunn Logistics UK

1. Introduction and welcome

Members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting, by Mark Johnson, group 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.

3. Reinvigoration of group

The group discussed the day-to-day challenges of their operations and what support they were looking for. The discussion highlighted the benefits of being involved in such a working group which included sharing of best practice in a collaborative approach, updates on legislative changes within the sector and the chance to have discussions with relevant figures within the industry and enforcement bodies.

On the other side of this, the challenges faced fell into a number of categories and members were keen to expand on best practice regarding the following areas:

- Vehicle and technician availability.
- Clean air zones.
- Alternatively fuelled vehicles.
- Standards of maintenance facilities.
- Compliance.
- Best practice.

The group highlighted the number of attendees and whether there were any potential reasons for the attendance to be dwindling and how to bring this back up to previous levels. Members discussed previous restrictions that had been implemented previously, including a limit on the number of attendees from each organisation, how to recruit new members to the group and promote both internally within Logistics UK and externally through publications. The discussion also covered the demographic of current transport managers and what could be done to interest younger people to take the qualification and bring them into the utilities sector.

Previously there was physical recognition of being in the group, through membership certificates of the group. It was queried whether these could be reintroduced.

The group also reviewed the current wording of the Utilities Services Working Group information page to ensure that it reflected the direction of the group. This wording would also be used in Logistics UK membership publications to advertise the group. The bulk of the wording was still accurate, however the group wanted to introduce language to promote the benefits of the group.

The group discussed the frequency of the meetings and agreed that there would be two face-to-face meetings per year, with the option of opening up a Teams based meeting for any hot-topics that needed to be raised or if there were specialist areas that would warrant being standalone meetings.

Action: Members would be requested to bring along a second member to the group with the view of inflating the numbers of the membership. Also to review previous membership lists to canvas for readmission into group.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington to review previous speakers and viability based on group requirements.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington and Chair Mark Johnson would discuss and produce brief questionnaire to be distributed to all current members of the group to assess any potential failings and reinvigorate the membership.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington to liaise with Membership team to speak to relevant members to potentially bring more organisations of relevance into the group to increase membership. Also review membership certificates of the group and if these could be generated on joining the group.

Action: Chair Mark Johnson to review viability of finance-based session. Would look at being a Teams session, interest dependant.

Action: Logistics UK representatives to liaise with Generation Logistics team with a view to having them present the scheme and the initiative as a whole, with how this can or is being aimed at specific sectors.

Action: Dan Crutchington to confirm wording of information page and ensure that wording is reflective of the mentioned changes to promote the positives of the group.

4. **B+E voluntary training**

Members were invited to discuss the impact of the changes in 2021 regarding the automatic entitlement gain of the B+E category.

The feedback was that the impact had not yet been fully realised as the changes had not created further training, as the group felt that they had robust training programmes in place. There was a mix of in-house and external training being provided, but each approach had a pass/fail element to demonstrate the seriousness of the training, as opposed to an attendance-based sign-off approach.

With regards to onboarding and induction, members expressed interest in viewing systems and speaking to organisations that had electronic systems linked to induction, risk-assessment and profiling, licence checking and driver pre-use checking. The hope would be that this tool could be extended to pre-interview driving assessment and assist in the recruitment of new operatives. A link would be distributed to the group to demonstrate one member's method of induction through the use of an electronic learning module.

5. **Ford charging solutions**

Members were given a presentation by James Benjamin from Ford Pro Charging relating to charging solutions and the importance of having the right solution for the business. The points raised included assessing what could be switched over immediately, what additional software was available and how it could link to existing systems. Also reminded of the importance of assessing current fleet to identify trends and review current operational model as there may be adjustments required in future.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington would distribute the slides from the presentation as part of the meeting documentation.

6. **Left hand drive vehicles**

Members discussed the letter from the Department for Transport regarding the outcome of the coroners report and whether the proposed measure would have any impact on the potential for future accidents involving these vehicles. The proposal relied on members of the public seeing and understanding the warning signage on the vehicle and reacting appropriately. This led to the general feeling that the signage would not have any impact on potential accidents as by virtue of seeing the sign means the vehicle has been acknowledged and would expect the public to react appropriately.

7. **DVSA load security**

Members were given a presentation by Stephen Cave, Enforcement Policy Specialist from DVSA on load security, with a focus on the utilities sector. The presentation and following discussion raised a number of questions. Due to technical nature of the

questions involved, Steve agreed to take questions by email. These could be forwarded to the group secretary to collate and forward on or email directly.

Action: Questions to be forwarded to group secretary or Stephen Cave directly, and slides from presentation would be distributed as part of the meeting documentation.

8. Tachograph manual entries

Members were reminded of the changes to how tachograph manual entries are recorded for periods not spent within a vehicle. The MAC Fact Sheet would be distributed as part of the documentation from the meeting so that all members received a copy.

Action: Secretary Dan Crutchington to distribute MAC Fact Sheet to group members.

9. Operator licence changes

Members were updated on the ramifications of a recent legal decision made by the Upper Tribunal where it was ruled that all goods vehicles in possession of an operator are deemed to be 'in use' and must be authorised under the operator's licence.

10. UK public policy update/any other business

Members raised the point on the ongoing discussion regarding gritting vehicles being used for other purposes, such as the spreading of sand/chippings to cool road surfaces during periods of hot weather. It was confirmed that this information had been collated and forwarded to the policy manager for them to push the issue.