

Utilities Services Working Group

Minutes from meeting held 14th March 2024

Meeting held at Weightmans LLP, Birmingham

Attendees

Chair

Mark Johnson Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Secretary

Dan Crutchington Logistics UK

Speakers

James Ashford Brigade Electronics
Chris Powell Weightmans LLP
Adrian Wanford Balfour Beatty
Denise Beedell Logistics UK

Members

Ben Connolly Northumbrian Water Group
Julie Davies Amey
Adam Goode Murphy Group
Sarah Jennings Weightmans LLP
Steve Kirby Morgan Sindall
Jonathan Medforth Tarmac
John Oakey Balfour Beatty
Stephen Offley Wales & West Utilities
Andy Ray Brandon Hire
Laszlo Soriano Volker Services
Kate Wilson Northumbrian Water Group
Andy Young Volker Services

Logistics UK Staff

Martin Candish Logistics UK

Apologies

Lee Allen
Ben Anstee
David Armitage
Greg Askill
Louise Barnes
Andrew Brammer
Dave Burn
Neil Connolly
Martin Crocker
Sandy Duff

Jerry Ganner
David Hibbs
Steve Irving
Jamie Maddison
Ian McClone
John Moore
Adrian Pinsent
Martin Shaw

1. Introduction and welcome

Members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting, by Dan Crutchington, group secretary. Apologies were taken and 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: 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.

Status: **Ongoing. All invitees would be requested to provide the name and contact details of a delegate in the case of non-attendance.**

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

Status: **Ongoing. Currently looking at previous speakers, as well as potential new speakers for group based on highlighted topics, such as load security.**

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.

Status: **Ongoing. Dan Crutchington liaising with Membership team as well as looking at other avenues for contacting members who were part of group previously. Membership certificates also being investigated.**

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

Status: **Complete. Emailed with minutes from previous meeting.**

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

Status: **Complete. Emailed with minutes from previous meeting.**

3. Terms of reference review

Following an internal review of all working groups run by Logistics UK in August 2023, each secretary was tasked with compiling the Terms of Reference for their respective working groups. Members were invited to comment on the proposed wording and format, in line with the group objectives.

Mark Johnson, current chair of the group has been in position since the beginning of 2020, however due to COVID issues, the group agreed with the proposal to begin the term from 2022 when the group picked up again.

The position of deputy chair was introduced and members were invited to put their names forward if interested. Deputy chair role will be proposed as next chair at end of the term, and can be useful for succession planning for the group.

Action: Members to put themselves forward for the position of Chair and Deputy Chair by contacting Group Secretary.

4. Direct Vision Standards – James Ashford – Brigade

James Ashford of Brigade Electronics gave an in-depth presentation to members on an update on the Progressive Safe System, due to be implemented from 28 October 2024, with guidance on ensuring that the fleet is ready for this change.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions, which included questions over whether GSR compliant vehicles automatically comply with the DVS, how smaller operators may fare with the costs involved, concerns over system maintenance requirements and calibration, driver training considerations over differences between different vehicles manufacturers equipment, and whether any faults would result in the vehicle being off-road.

Action: Group secretary to share letter from Logistics UK to Transport for London regarding lobbying points for members.

Action: Direct Vision Standard briefing note to be circulated with minutes after meeting.

5. Mock public inquiry – Chris Powell – Weightmans LLP

Members of the Utilities Services Working Group heard from Chris Powell, Principal Associate at Weightmans LLP, who shared information and insight on Public Inquiries with a view to assisting members can avoid the situation before it arises. In an engaging session, the differences between trial and public inquiry was covered as well as reinforcing the point that the transport sector has the most actively regulated area.

Chris offered members of Logistics UK's Waste Forum and Utilities Services Working Group the unique opportunity to participate in a mock public inquiry hosted by Weightmans in June 2024. The venue is to be confirmed, dependent on the number of

attendees. This opportunity will provide members with an insight to the seriousness of being called to a public inquiry by replicating a real-life scenario, such as a bridge strike.

The group discussed the processes their organisations have when notifying the Traffic Commissioner, how Traffic Commissioners operate across the country, and driver conduct hearings.

Members discussed similar events held in locations such as law schools, with an example being Derby University for an IRTE event.

Action: Secretary to extend offer to members as part of meeting minutes, with members to respond to confirm interest.

Action: Secretary to review potential locations for event.

6. Tesmec Trailers – Adrian Wanford – Balfour Beatty

Adrian Wanford, Group Transport Compliance Manager at Balfour Beatty walked members through the process that the business went through to introduce four pieces of specialist trailed equipment to UK roads in order to boost their operational capabilities.

The Tesmec AFQ706 is used in the installation and refurbishment of cable spans between high voltage pylons. The equipment is designed to ensure the tension on the cables is at the correct height and has the correct amount of sag between spans.

Adrian invited members to discuss the process involved, which went through initial questions over road use capability, all the way to the Secretary of State, demonstrating the volume of information required when trying to introduce new forms of technology to UK roads. Ultimately, this was to demonstrate that there is a pathway through the legislative process and that specialised equipment can be introduced when it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a genuine need for this and that there is a benefit to the public at large.

7. UK public policy update – Denise Beedell – Logistics UK

The Utilities Services Working Group was joined by Denise Beedell, Senior Policy Manager at Logistics UK, 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.

There was a small update regarding the Category B driving licence concession changes which is that draft legislation had been written and government were working with the lawyers on finalising this before its introduction, but there was no introduction date at present.

Members were also introduced to the Van Plan, which is in partnership with the BVRLA, Recharge UK, AFP and The EV Café, with details provided of how to access the plan and ways to promote it included in the meeting slides.

Action: Secretary to distribute links as part of the slide deck.

8. Any other business

The Secretary gave each member the opportunity to raise any items they wanted to discuss.

The location of the meeting was discussed with members commenting favourably on the possibility of being able to use public transport such as the train to attend the meeting, with the option to work while travelling.

Hydrogen vehicles were raised as a topic following the conclusion of a recent trial, and the feedback currently being analysed suggests that this could be a viable solution in the future. Members were receptive and interested in learning more about the trial and its outcomes.

Members were offered the opportunity to view a proposed learning module on bridge strikes and feedback was sought on potential price points, as well as future content requirements. The overwhelming feedback was that members of the group wanted to be able to use this within their operations, subject to pricing and access and usage restrictions.

Action: Members invited to suggest location for future meetings, including their own sites where space permits.

Action: Secretary to investigate viability of slot at next meeting on Hydrogen vehicles.

Action: Secretary to pass feedback to Training Development team regarding bridge strike module.