

Utilities Services Working Group

Minutes from meeting held 16th February 2023

Logistics UK, Number Three, Siskin Drive, Coventry

Attendees

Chair

Julie Davies Amey

Secretary

Dan Crutchington Logistics UK

Speakers

Percy Thrower Logistics UK
Phil Roe Logistics UK - online

Members

Ben Anstee Vehicle Lease & Service
Dave Burn Vehicle Lease & Service
Adam Goode J Murphy
Radomir Korcz UK Power Networks
James Mansfield Colas
Jonathan Medforth Tarmac
John Oakey Balfour Beatty
Laszlo Soriano Volker Wessels
Paul Tucker National Grid
Adrian Wanford Balfour Beatty
Andy Young Volker Wessels

Logistics UK Staff

Martin Candish Logistics UK

Apologies

Lee Allen South East Water
Louise Barnes Wessex Water Services Ltd
Jeff Bawden Balfour Beatty Group Ltd
Eamonn Brennan National Grid PLC
Alex Clark Balfour Beatty Group Ltd
Neil Connolly Anglian Water Services
Martin Crocker Wessex Water Services Ltd
Craig Dealey M Group Services Plant & Fleet Solutions Ltd
Sandy Duff Scottish Water
Jerry Ganner Portsmouth Water Ltd
David Hibbs Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Stephen Jackson O'Connor Utilities Ltd
Mark Johnson Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Stuart Jones	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Steve Kirby	Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure Ltd
David Leggett	Anglian Water Services
Jamie Maddison	National Grid PLC
Kate Markey	Ipsium Infrastructure Ltd
Chris Mayell	National Grid Electricity Distribution
John Moore	Scottish Power
Stephen Offley	Wales & West Utilities Ltd
Adrian Pinsent	Skanska UK Plc
Martin Shaw	United Utilities Water Limited
Ross Shepherd	Scottish Water
Neil Walton	M Group Services Plant & Fleet Solutions Ltd

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. Julie Davies agreed to step in as meeting chair. Members were reminded of meeting conduct, with full details as part of meeting papers.

2. Generation Logistics

Phil Roe, President of Logistics UK, introduced the group to Generation Logistics, a campaign supported by Department for Transport with the aim of helping transport operators find the next generation of logistics talent. Members were given an engaging presentation on the campaign and updated on the aims and progress through the first year, with a call to get involved to help highlight the sector.

Members were then able to ask questions and many surrounded sector specific challenges surrounding attracting talent and how to broaden this reach. There were also concerns around the lack of emphasis on sectors outside of typical 'logistics' and the connotations that the word invoked. The responses surrounded the need for organisations to put themselves forwards to increase reach and highlight the sector in a proactive manner and positive light.

For members wanting to get involved in the second year of the campaign, they were advised to contact the group secretary Dan Crutchington to forward on details to the Generation Logistics team and set up a call to discuss.

Phil also requested invite to next meeting to discuss further and get better understanding of the group.

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

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

3. 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 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.

Status: **Ongoing. Meeting to be organised to go through viability of questionnaire.**

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

Ongoing: **Ongoing. Dan Crutchington to speak with secretary of Waste Forum to discuss joint group meeting surrounding this and gauging interest from that group.**

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.

Status: **Complete. Members given presentation by Phil Roe, Logistics UK President.**

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

Status: **Complete. Slides distributed.**

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.

Status: **Complete. Questions forwarded to group secretary were passed to Stephen Cave and responses passed back to relevant member.**

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

Status: **Complete. MAC Fact Sheet distributed.**

4. Road User Levy

The group discussed the proposed new rates for road user levy, applicable for vehicles over 12t MAM (maximum authorised mass). The levy was originally suspended to aid with recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and is to be reintroduced from 1 August 2023. The consultation looked at the proposed rates and looks to streamline the charges to simplify the levy calculations.

The general consensus was that the levy would be introduced and absorbed into the VED rates from the introduction date.

5. Employing DGSA

Members were given a presentation by Percy Thrower, Logistics UK Manager of Dangerous Goods Information, on a brief introduction to ADR, the relevant changes in the latest 2023 edition, requirements when carrying dangerous goods that are ancillary to the job being undertaken and the requirements surrounding employing a qualified DGSA.

Questions flowed freely and operational queries were dealt with surrounding the limits for transporting common dangerous goods, such as diesel and petrol, and the relevant exemptions that operations within the sector can apply.

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

Action: Feedback to training department on groups requirements.

6. Changes to testing

To maintain road safety, vehicles presented for test must be appropriately laden for test from 1 January 2023. After this date, a Vehicle Standards Assessor will refuse to test a vehicle which is not appropriately laden. You will lose the test fee and will need to re-present the vehicle or trailer correctly laden and pay for a new test.

The group were free to discuss brake testing and see if these changes have affected anyone, considering there are exemptions for vehicles where there are basic design limitations. Discussion surrounding this was limited, with most of the group presenting laden when required, unless exemptions applied.

Members also discussed changes from April 2023 regarding FRTs or Free Rolling Tyres. These types of tyres, fitted to front steering axles will be treated as a major deficiency at annual test. It was highlighted to discuss current processes with maintenance provider, particularly to ensure they don't put these tyres on vehicles at any pre-MOT maintenance work.

An ongoing consultation was also discussed as to the general feeling regarding potential changes to the MOT regime and the general feel was muted, with members responding that the current regime was suitable and highlighted that changes to this regime may mean that certain types of vehicle may be more heavily impacted than others.

Action: Dan Crutchington to distribute general feedback on consultation response to group.

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

7. UK Public policy update

Members were reminded of the ongoing consultation for the changes to the MOT regime.

8. Any other business

Discussions opened up around potential topics for the next meeting, with a particular focus on issues within the sector and sharing best practice. Members presented ideas for topics to be covered and the group would be free to list preferences for potential topics. No topic was to be removed from the list until completed, and could be re-added at any time if there was interest or change in policy. The current topics, in no order, for members to express interests in:

- Wheel loss.
- Transitioning to digital tachographs and adaptation of technology.
- Vehicle 'Rollaways' and best practice surrounding this.
- Alternatively fuelled vehicles.
- Load security / Overloading.
- Movement of plant equipment. Members expressed an interest in putting together a collaborative best practice document.
- Onboarding of new staff. Previously highlighted as something to be shared with the group, this could be further explored as a potential demonstration.
- Vision training and potential speaker on domestic hours set-up. Query was raised over company policies being added to Vision to sign off.

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

Following on from previous queries, there are 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.

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

Members were also asked for preferences over the date of the next meeting, which was agreed provisionally to be the second week in September, with the potential date being set for 14th. The location is to be determined closer to the time.