

East of England Freight Council Minutes

**Tuesday 2 April 2019
Bedford Lodge Hotel, Bury Road
Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7BX**

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Kevin Barcroft from Simply Waste Solutions.
- Roundtable introductions were made.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Members were reminded by the Secretary about new guidance on competition law compliance. Full details can be found in the Policy Report.

REPORT FROM UK COUNCIL

- Members received a report back from discussions at UK Council on 7 February including outcomes on Vehicle Operator Licensing priorities for development and test availability.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Members received a Secretary's report which included transport taxation, HGV test availability, OTC Review, and Parallel MOT testing.

PRESENTATION

Highways England

- Steve Thulborn from Highways England updated members on road projects in the region including progress with the A14 upgrade and the A428 Black Cat scheme announcement.
- There was some discussion about the concrete road network, of which about 30 per cent is in the East of England region. Much of it is life-expired and needs significant maintenance or completely replacing. The difficulty is that the majority of it is in the eastern part of the region where there is a lack of suitable alternative routes, so there are likely to be some very lengthy diversions when the works are carried out.
- A copy of Steve's slides was emailed to members following the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

A2 Roadworks information

- Members were invited to discuss potential shortcomings in information provision regarding roadworks from roads authorities, its effects on logistics, and what operators need in terms of future information provision.
- Members said that their operations had suffered delay and/or additional cost due to poor roadworks information on motorways and trunk roads? However, they felt that information from Highways England had improved in the last year. Steve Thulborn from Highways England said that they had appointed a new Network Manager in the region to oversee the coordination of works and that new contracts are seeing reductions in the amount of road space booked for network closures.

- Members were concerned about the quality of diversion routes and signage, especially if signage is deployed in advance and falls over. They would like to see better coordination of information into sat-navs and routing systems.
- Steve Thulborn advised members of a weekly newsletter of works in the region. The document is caveated that it is subject to change, due to weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances, but is hopefully useful in terms of forward planning. Members wishing to receive this directly in the future should email [Natalie Chapman](mailto:Natalie.Chapman@highwaysengland.co.uk) who will pass on contact details to Highways England.
- Additional information and updates on all major schemes in the East can be found via <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/regions/east/?postcode=&keywords=&roads=&status>. There is information on all regions available at <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/roads/>.
- Members said that they would like roadworks information in a dynamic mapping system. (*for works on local authority (non-Highways England) roads, www.roadworks.org provides useful information in a mapping system*).

A1 Brexit

- Members received an update on the latest situation and discussed implications for logistics operations.
- More information on Brexit support and advice can be found at www.fta.co.uk/brexit.

A3 FORS reform

- Members were asked to decide if TfL's proposed reforms to FORS meet industry's requirements.
- Council agreed with FTA's stance and proposed revised model for FORS. However, it was felt that the Independent Governance Group should also be initially notified of complaints and appeals by FORS members as there is a concern that the Concessionaire will not deal with it properly and try to cover it up.

A4 Earned Recognition benefits

- Members were asked to decide what future benefits would be required from Earned Recognition (ER) to make it worthwhile for the logistics industry.
- Members agreed that exemptions from MOT testing would save significant time and money and help build the business case for ER. They felt that priority booking of contingency DVSA examiners where the original examiner was unable to attend the ER ATF would be helpful.
- It was agreed that if ER+ was developed and then adopted by TfL and other major projects, it would provide a good and popular alternative to FORS.
- It was commented that the insurance proposal would be unnecessary, as the market would take care of itself.

A5 Brake testing vehicles in a laden state

- Members were asked to discuss and decide FTA's response to the consideration that is being given by the Traffic Commissioners as to whether more should be done to encourage that brake testing at inspections is conducted in a laden state, and if the long -standing acceptance that tri-axle trailers can be tested unladen at annual test should be reviewed.
- Members commented that you can have three out of four brakes working and still pass the test using a decelerometer, so roller brake testing is the only way you can really do it.
- Members felt that Traffic Commissioners are extracting from undertakings what they want to see done and operators are put in an impossible position as they can't object to the request for laden brake testing.

A6 Driver CPC

- Feedback was sought regarding certain elements within Driver CPC regulations that could potentially be affected by implementation of the EU Directive. These include use of work-based learning, e-learning and distance learning as part of courses.

- Members said that they would welcome the opportunity to conduct part of Driver CPC in a work-based learning environment.
- In terms of safeguards that should be put in place to ensure work-based learning was not abused, it was felt that proper assessment of pre and post course knowledge would be helpful, so you can benchmark, and that work-based learning needs to be properly invigilated.
- Distance learning, if set up in the right way, could be really beneficial. One member reported that they were already including e-learning in their DCPC.
- One member said they have details of biometric and facial recognition software which would be useful for user identification to ensure that the person who should be doing the course is the person sat in front of the computer.

A7 Proposed ban on use of older tyres

- Members were asked to decide FTA's response to DfT's upcoming consultation on banning the use of 10+ year old tyres on HGVs.
- Members supported a ban on fitting tyres aged 10 years or older on commercial vehicles, but there were concerns about allowing re-treads to restart the clock as the quality control process isn't in place.
- When asked of any specific scenarios where complying with the 10-year deadline would present a significant additional cost, one member operating fire appliances said that they tend to have older tyres, but they have decided to already introduce a ten-year limit. Concerns were raised about fast track tractors operating really old tyres and there may be some specialist equipment affected such as sky cradles.

A8 Drivers' Hours recording in multi-manning operations

- A clarification of the requirements for recording drivers' hours in multi manning operations has exposed operational challenges in the waste sector. The meeting explored if this affects any other operators.
- It was suggested that driving instructors and assessors would be affected by this.
- Members also asked what would happen if you have a three-man crew, all with entitlement to drive, but of course only two driver card slots.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Problems with tachograph workshop cards.

- Members reported that they are experiencing problems with recently issued 1C/1B (smart/digital) compatible workshop cards as they are not pairing with motion sensors during installations.
- FTA is aware of the problem and members were advised that the Association is in contact with DVLA about identifying a solution. An update would be included in FTA e-news the day after the meeting.
- *UPDATE:* The new card is designed to carry out calibrations and periodic inspections on both the existing digital tachograph (1B) and the new Smart Tachograph (1C) which becomes mandatory in vehicles from 15 June 2019. Unfortunately, this combined ability has failed, so the new cards will only work for smart tachograph calibrations and pairings. To resolve the problem, DVLA has decided to issue a new digital tachograph (1B) only workshop card as a matter of urgency, and it should be with members from the start of w/c 8 April. This new 1B card will run in parallel with the 1C/1B card already issued, until the end of March 2020. DVSA states that the new 1B-only card must be treated with the same levels of security as other workshop cards; any failures in maintaining the highest standards of security will lead to disciplinary action being taken as required. DVSA has also confirmed that ATFs must comply with the following: all PSVs and HGVs encountered at annual test fitted with digital tachographs with expired calibration dates must be given dispensation, and, where such vehicles are encountered, an advisory notice must be issued at annual test by annotating the test documentation. DVSA has stated that any vehicles that cannot currently be calibrated will not be subject to enforcement action (in respect of this requirement) until 30 April 2019. This will only apply in the UK – vehicles should not be used on international journeys if they experience this issue. Any vehicles not calibrated by 30 April 2019 will be subject to enforcement action as usual. DVLA will be issuing further information, and members will be kept updated through enews.

East of England Freight Council Meeting in October

- Members were invited to put forward suggestions for an appropriate venue for the October meeting of the East of England Freight Council.
- *UPDATE:* Following the meeting, Russell Avery from Grace Foods has kindly offered to host the meeting on Tuesday 22 October at their headquarters in Welwyn Garden City.
- Richard Turfitt, Senior Traffic Commissioner and TC for the East of England will also be attending the October meeting.

Date of next meeting

- Thursday 13 June at the Bedford Lodge Hotel

ATTENDEES

Chairman

Kevin Barcroft Simply Waste Solutions

Attendees

Joe Addison	Glazewing Ltd
Danny Alborough	Milebay Consultancy Ltd
Russell Avery	Grace Foods
John Burbridge	Turners (Soham) Ltd
Chris Clark	Wincanton
David Cooke	Fowler Welch
Neil Davies	Milebay Consultancy Ltd
Warren DiDuca	MSC (UK) Ltd
Paul Duncalf	Sysco/Brakes
Chris Francis	Turners (Soham) Ltd
Paul Hutchings	Luton Borough Council
Stephen Ireland	Transam Trucking Ltd
Peter Lambert	Milebay Consulting Ltd
Mark Lewis	Transam Trucking Ltd
Tim Norris	Ashtons Legal
Robin Peck	Norfolk County Council
Richard Pelly	Pelly's Transport and Regulatory Law
James Ray	LD Asset
Katerina Silhanova	Fowler Welch
Paul Smalley	Kier Group
Tim Smart	Frontier Agriculture
Simon Smith	Dacorum Borough Council
David Walker	Saint Gobain
Neil Woods	DS Smith Packaging Ltd

Guests

Steve Thulborn Highways England

FTA Staff

Natalie Chapman Head of South of England and Urban Policy
Rebecca Kite Environment Policy Manager

Apologies

James Andrews	Maritime Transport
Rob Carter	Greene King
Peter Chivers	P&O Ferrymasters
Derek Daly	Goldstar Transport Ltd
Geof Driscoll	TCS Ltd
Garry Rudd	AIC Services
Es Shepherd	Es Shepherd Road Transport Consultant
Michael Whatling	GEODIS UK Limited
Steve Williams	Truck (UK) Limited