



## MINUTES

of meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at NI Traffic Information & Control Centre, Belfast

### Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Andrew Shields, opened the meeting at 09.30 and extended a welcome to everyone including new members. List of Attendees is shown at the end of the minutes.

### Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved - proposed by Jeff Shaw and seconded by Pamela Dennison.

### Guidance on conduct of FTA meetings (competition law compliance)

Members were advised to familiarise themselves with the guidance for conduct of FTA meetings involving members

### Issues arising from National Council on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Members were updated on key points discussed at National Council including outcomes on Vehicle Operator Licensing and Ultra Low Emission Roads in GB

### Secretary's Report

Secretary updated council on progress on issues including transport taxation, clean air zones and OTC review

### Election of new Chair & Vice-Chair

The Chair advised this would be his last Freight Council as Chair following a two year term.

It was confirmed that current Vice-Chair Pamela Dennison is appointed as the new Chair.

Two members of Freight Council, Gary Barnes and Charlene Quayle volunteered to become new Vice-Chair.

Members present were each given a nomination paper to complete and return to the Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of the meeting.

Twenty two votes were cast. In a very close count that finished 12-10, Charlene Quayle was elected as the new Vice-Chair.

### BREXIT

The Secretary gave members an update on Brexit including reflecting on the new extension date of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Members were also briefed on No Deal contingency plans by the Government with regards to the border between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

## **ROADWORKS INFORMATION**

Members agreed that their operations have suffered delays due to unexpected repairs and roadworks with information not conveyed in correct channels.

Some suggestions given by members included more alerts and utilise live information on platforms such as google maps. Bespoke mobile apps could also display live data and alerts. This would help transport planners and drivers plan and react journeys accordingly.

Members also highlighted that during peak times there is lots of travel information on channels such as BBC radio and other stations. However after 9am until evening time, information is sparse. By utilising DAB there should be options for commercial drivers to continue getting updated and live traffic news and alerts.

## **HGV EXCELLENCE SCHEMES**

- **FORS REFORM** – Members agreed with FTA stance and revised model. Body in charge should be setting the standard with various options based on those standards available to operators to subscribe to. Members said that FTA should focus on continuing to try and get more equivalent standards. Some operators stated that we can't discredit FORS as many good operators have spent time and money on achieving the accreditation and said that the key is ensuring continuity in same standards for any equivalent standards.
- **EARNED RECOGNITION BENEFITS** – Members agreed this was not applicable for NI as you must have an O Licence in GB to avail of ER.

## **BRAKE TESTING VEHICLES IN LADEN STATE**

Members said that any uptake by operators depends on type of vehicle and what cargo does that trailer carry, for example a trailer that carries bulk rubbish would not be allowed into a test centre laden. Same for aggregates or other bulk.

No concerns raised about the ability of non-engineers to read and understand a brake performance report.

Health and safety concerns were raised regarding having a trailer laden, especially for 3<sup>rd</sup> party maintenance providers. What if load moves in transit, who loads/unloads and what liability is something goes wrong.

Barriers to certain types of trailers include bulk trailers used for feeds, aggregates, recycling could be an issue as well as tankers – not as simple as putting a pallet inside with weights, either not possible or not secure.

Consistency of weights used to test in laden, could lead to refusals at test if weight not correct, another issue for 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors.

## **DRIVER CPC**

Members agreed that any Driver CPC training conducted in a work place environment would need to be cost effective, limited to space in cab for example. Some members noted they already do SAFED as dcpc and it's an expensive option.

Members agreed that any change to DCPC must be focused on learning outcomes and not just a box ticking exercise

Members stated they would not be in support of e-learning as it would be open to abuse and questioned how it would be monitored and managed.

Members did suggest that there could be possible scope for a scheme for accredited operators to deliver work place DCPC and e-learning, as an 'Earned Recognition' type of scheme for DCPC whereby a trusted, accredited and audited business could deliver such training in-house.

## **PROPOSED BAN ON USE OF OLDER TYRES**

Members agreed with the proposed ban and stated no excuse for having tyres that old, even on specialist vehicles or plant with minimal mileage, members said they still wouldn't have tyres that old as they still deplete over time.

The Secretary stated that the Northern Ireland Department for Infrastructure intend putting this out to formal consultation in Autumn 2019 and will use member feedback as basis of FTA response.

## **DRIVERS HOURS RECORDING IN MULTI MANNING OPERATIONS**

On sectors beyond the waste industry, some members state that two man crews on 7.5T utility vehicles could be affected as they both have entitlement to drive. Another member raised issue of a driver with grandfather rights but no DCPC and never drives, would they need to work along these guidelines - i.e. entitlement to drive on licence but not legally allowed due to no dcpc.

## **Regional Items: Northern Ireland**

The Secretary gave an overview of regional updates including:-

- Meeting with HMRC re fuel laundering and ongoing engagement
- No Deal Brexit planning with DEFRA on Irish Sea freight movements including input from five local members involved in the movement of just in time foods and medicines.
- Extensive political engagement by FTA locally in Northern Ireland including meetings with the Prime Minister, Secretary of State, several MP's, Ulster Unionist Party, Sinn Fein, the US Consulate and a delegation from the Irish Senate.
- FTA work and engagement on the Border Delivery Group concerning the NI border and measures post Brexit
- Engagement with the Department for Infrastructure regarding ongoing problems at the Transport Regulation Unit.

## **AOB**

The Secretary thanked the outgoing Chair Andrew Shields for his support and assistance for the past two years, all members gave Andrew a round of applause.

The Secretary advised members of the FTA lunch at the Merchant Hotel, Belfast on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Secretary informed members of a meeting scheduled with Home Office officials at Stormont House on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm. Agenda is to discuss migration white paper that could impact ability to recruit EU nationals post Brexit. The Secretary extended the invitation to any Council members.

**Date of Next meeting – 09.30 Thursday 20 June 2019 at Clifton House, North Queen Street, Belfast, BT15 1EQ**

## **ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Also in Attendance</b>
Gary Barnes – Balloo Hire Brendan Beggan – Whitemountain George Monaghan – Kier Group John Purdy – TBF Thompson Charlene Quayle - RiverRidge Jeff Shaw – Ards & North Down BC James Mannis – Ards & North Down BC Martin Walker – TATA Steel Brian Welsh – Coca Cola Pamela Dennison – W.S Dennison John Jenkins – Dennison Commercials Liam McConway – Coca Cola Paul Harden – Lynas Food Service Stuart Martin – Gray & Adams Andy Spence – WAS Training Alan Abraham – Henderson Group Jamie Shaw – DFDS Sam Stewart – DHL Mark Laughlin – Beatties Distribution Charlene McGonagle – Henderson Wholesale Gary Rocks – Patterson Rocks Solicitors Maire Claire Reid – TST Transport Andrew Shields – Libraries NI	Seamus Leheny – FTA Chris Yarsley – FTA Eric Higham – FTA Derek Livingstone - FTA