



MINUTES Of meeting held on Thursday 24th January 2019 at Clifton House, Belfast

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Jeff Shaw (standing in for Andrew Shields) opened the meeting at 0930am 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 18th October 2018 were approved - proposed by Pamela Dennison and seconded by Dan Carey.

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 8th November 2018 and attendance at National Council on 7th February 2019.

Members were updated on key points discussed at National Council including changes to DVSA Sift Policy and HGV Enforcement Targeting; Maximum weights and dimensions of HGV's; Priorities for legislative change; abnormal loads.

Secretary's Report

Secretary updated council on progress on issues including: FORS Review; London Direct Vision Standard; Independent Testing; Availability of HGV Annual Tests; Immigration White Paper and Labour Shortage Categories; Driving Licence Derogation for Alternatively-Fuelled Vehicles; Ongoing EU discussions on Operating Licencing for vans, minimum Wage Requirements for Drivers, and Drivers Hours/Tachograph Rules; Abnormal Loads

Vehicle Operator Licensing – Priorities for Development

Members were asked to decide what functions of the Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL) online system should be priorities for future development

1. What additional features or processes would members like to see added to Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL)?

Members indicated they would like to see VOL developed to include direct email or communication to Licence holders in relation to any changes to legislation or updates they should be aware of.

ULTRA-LOW AND ZERO EMISSION ROADS/ZONES

Chris Yarsley (FTA) reviewed and asked Members to decide FTA's response to the increasing numbers of local authorities considering small scale Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) and zero-emission schemes.

1. Do members support the proposed approach and stance?

One Council Member enquired if this included public transport – Chris confirmed he would have to check the specifics of the remit with other colleagues in the policy team who specialise in buses/public transport.

In general NI council members support the approach and stance.

2. Are members aware of any local schemes being proposed?

Local authorities in NI have no remit for this type of scheme and ultimately they are governed by devolved government. Any changes in legislation in NI is not likely to happen for the foreseeable future due to no active devolved government in place.

Chris asked if council members had any other plans in place in relation to using alternative vehicles. Some council members confirmed there does not currently appear to be a big uptake on electric vehicles on the whole but there were encouraging signs on uptake of electric vehicles for use within inner city and urban areas.

3. What problems have members encountered with any schemes that have been introduced or are being proposed?

Council members indicated there is a lack of infrastructure in NI, one council member noted there would appear to be bigger strives in ROI but stops really at the border areas.

4. Have members experienced issues regarding the supply of compliant vehicles?

No.

5. What support would members want to see to help them upgrade their fleet (ie charging infrastructure, upgrades to grid capacity, additional access)?

Council members felt that NI requires a better infrastructure and possibly more incentives.

PORTS/COASTAL SHIPPING

Chris Yarsley explained how coastal shipping has been in decline around the UK and how FTA wishes to discuss this issue with members, and to brief them on a new policy study in this area to influence the Department for Transport's (DfT's) broader Maritime 2050 agenda.

1. Do members have experience in the coastal shipping sector and, if so:

- a) What would members consider to be the key barriers to growth?

Council discussed but decided this is not really an issue in NI/ROI as no coastal shipping is carried out any longer. One member indicated their operation would have used a charter boat to Isle Of Mann once a week potentially at certain times of the year.

- b) Would they be prepared to discuss this further with FTA?

Not applicable

ROAD HAULAGE AND CONTAINER PORTS – WORKING TO RESOLVE CONGESTION PROBLEMS

Members have reported consistent congestion problems at container ports; FTA is seeking views and information on this ahead of discussions at our Freight by Water Working Group to try to find solutions to this issue.

1. Hauliers: Do you deliver to/pick up from container ports? If so, have you experienced long waiting times and congestion? Have you tried off-peak times and how does that fit with your customers?

Not an issue for NI members

2. Shippers: How would off-peak or perhaps night-time deliveries to you work for your supply chain?

Not applicable

BREXIT - UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF PREPAREDNESS

FTA will update on the latest understanding of the situation regarding Brexit and its implications for logistics. FTA would like feedback from members on any preparedness work they have carried out and how FTA could help beyond advice already shared with members.

1. What examples of contingencies, already in action or prepared if necessary, can members give?

Council members listed the following contingency actions:-

- *Some council members tried to apply for ECMT permits but weren't able to complete the process.*
- *Tried AEO accreditation – but if some of their customers not also AEO registered especially in groupage (one customer not signed up) then AE will not work. AEO also very onerous, timely and expensive!*
- *Some council members have already decided to locate offices in ROI and followed through with re-registering vehicles and applying for operators' licences in ROI.*
- *One council member has suggested that their end users apply for operator licences in their own jurisdiction.*
- *Council members who supply vehicles and parts were preparing to "stock up" on vehicle parts. There were also concerns are significant increases in prices of new vehicles, so trying to prepare their customers for that if no deal.*

2. What could FTA do to help members further, based on existing advice, activities and services?

Members requested that FTA just keep updating them with as much information as possible. Seamus thanked members for getting involved with policy and media and encouraged more council members to get involved. Members also advised to register with FTA to receive weekly Brexit Digest and updates.

GUEST SPEAKER –MIKE BEARE (DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AT DVA)

Jeremy Logan was unable to attend at short notice today and sent his apology to council – he will attend a future Council meeting to update members on DVA compliance issues in NI.

Mike Beare updated council members on DVA Transformation Programme for projects completed and plans for going forward as follows:-

Projects delivered in 2018

- Driving licence back office system (2016)
- Driving licence online services:
 - Renew your licence – 21% uptake
 - Replace your driving licence – 84% uptake
 - Change address on your driving licence – 42% uptake
- Driving Examiners Digital Solution

- Category B driving tests
- Compliance & Enforcement
 - Roadside Data Capture
 - Car Operations, Roadside & Intelligence

Projects to be delivered in 2019

- Compliance & Enforcement (Sept 19)
 - Infringements & Regulations information
 - Prosecutions
 - Surveys & OCRS
- Commercial Licensing
 - Taxi, Bus, ADI/AMI
- Driving Licence Online services
 - Upload photo on renewals
 - PSNI & OHS access
 - View counterpart
 - Mike invited FTA to work with them on 3rd third party (employer) "share my licence" type scenario for NI – what are the priorities and current impacts for NI Operators around licence checking. Secretary will liaise with members interested in sitting on working group possibly.
- Driving Examiners Digital Solutions
 - Phase 2
- Strategic Partner Procurement
- New equipment Procurement/software integration

Projects to be delivered 2020 & 2021

- Booking & Rostering Service
- New test centre & Depot at Hydebank (members were shown video with architects proposed plans – the department have consulted widely with industry and stakeholders on ideas and requirements)
- Enhancements to:-
 - Compliance & Enforcement
 - Commercial Licensing
 - Driving licence online services
 - Driving Examiners Digital Solution
- Customer contact project
- Organisational development

Regional Items: Northern Ireland

The Secretary gave an overview of regional updates including:-

NI BUSINESS DELEGATION VISIT TO EU

Members were updated on delegation meeting with other trade bodies including NI Food & Drink, Manufacturing NI, NI Chamber of Commerce, NI Meat Exporters Association and MPA, some FTA members (Coca Cola, MJM Group and Norbrook) were also in attendance at the meeting on 08/10/18 with EU Task Force 50 (TF50).

ROADS NOISE ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

Secretary updated council on the FTA response to consultation submitted on 15th November 2018, highlighting that FTA promote quiet deliveries among our membership of 17,000 members across the UK and here in NI and emphasised it's opposition to any restrictions in the movement of HGV's in NI.

SKILLS MEETING WITH THE DUP

Council were updated on FTA attendance along with several other business organisations in NI at meeting with representatives of DUP in Belfast on 9th November 2018. Discussion high-lighted mutual concerns around the ability to recruit migrant workers after Brexit.

MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER

Secretary also updated members on meeting on 22nd November hosted by the Prime Minister at Downing Street. FTA attended along with local FTA members Woodsides, Manfreight and Derry Refrigerated Transport. The following week FTA also attended meeting at Queens University on 27th November 2018 with the Prime Minister.

BELFAST CITY CENTRE ACCESS

Council were updated on FTA response to consultation regarding proposed 6 month pilot scheme on Bedford Street in Belfast.

LOCAL CROSS-PARTY POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

FTA were involved in significant political engagement in NI during the last quarter of 2018, secretary updated members on all activity in this area.

EVIDENCE AT HOUSE OF COMMONS

Secretary updated council on evidence session to the "Exiting the EU" Committee at the House of Commons on 24th October 2018 where FTA were invited to give evidence alongside three other business organisations in NI.

AOB

Next meeting the current Freight Council Chairman will step down and new Chair (Pamela Dennison) will step up. Secretary requested volunteers for role of Vice Chair to contact him, Jayne Currie or Charmaine McVey.

Council Members encouraged to consider attending CILT annual dinner 27/02/19.

Council members were advised that this years' Transport Manager Conference will be held in Autumn this year alongside all other GB seminars – likely to be October but date not yet confirmed.

Chris Yarsley explained reason for lack of Free Member Briefings during 2018 due to staffing issues and recruitment and training of new staff in the Members Advice team. During 2019, FTA will be offering webinars instead of free member briefings twice a year – members encouraged to register online.

Date of Next meeting – 09.30 Thursday 11th April 2019 at Traffic Information & Control Centre, 1 Airport Road, Belfast, BT3 9DY

ATTENDANCE LIST

<u>Present</u>	<u>Also in Attendance</u>
Gareth Averell – Woodside Group	Seamus Leheny – FTA
Gary Barnes – Balloo Hire	Charmaine McVey - FTA
Brendan Beggan – Whitemountain	Chris Yarsley – FTA
Dan Carey – Dale Farm Co-Operative	Mike Beare – DVA
Patrick Derry – Derry Refrigerated Transport	Jayne Currie - FTA
Billy Leader – DFDS	
George Monaghan – Kier Group	
John Purdy – TBF Thompson	
Charlene Quayle - RiverRidge	
Jeff Shaw – Ards & North Down BC	
James Mannis – Ards & North Down BC	
Aaron Tennant – BOC	
Martin Walker – TATA Steel	
Johnny Walker – Express Freight	
Brian Welsh – Coca Cola	
Glenn Alderdice – Woodside Group	
Amanda Wylie – Kennedy’s Law	
James Allen – Allen Logistics	
Jennifer Beattie – Sensata Technologies	
David Bogue – Woodside Group	
Graham Boyce – Hovis Ltd	
Pamela Dennison – W.S Dennison	
John Jenkins – Dennnison Commercials	
Pascal Manley -KN Networks	
Fergal McGorman – Bryson Recycling	
Alister Boyd – Gray & Adams	
Liam McConway – Coca Cola	
Brian McManus – Quinn Building Products	
Paul Roberts – McQuillan Group	
Paul Harden – Lynas Food Service	
Roy Mitchell – Derry Refrigerated Transport	
Jonathan Gardiner - Translink	
Stuart Martin – Gray & Adams	
Lynda Gregg – Antrim & Newtownabbey BC	
Tania McShane – Surefreight	