



## **Matters Arising**

Council was given a report on discussions at the 8 November UK Council.

## **Secretary's Report**

Council was updated on developments under the following points:

- FTA internal plans for Councils – Council was given an update on the new look Policy Report and also on future plans for the organisation of meetings.
- Brexit –FTA reported on the latest developments on Brexit.
- Clean Air Zones – FTA gave members an update as to the latest developments across the UK with the introduction of CAZs in different cities.
- Industrial Strategy – Members were given an update on FTA submissions to two consultations as part of the Industrial Strategy: Future of Mobility, and The Last Mile.
- Severn Crossing – Members were updated on the decision to remove tolls from the crossing in December 2018.
- Trailer registration and Driving Licences – FTA updated members on the latest news regarding how to apply for registration documents for trailers and also on the possible need to apply for International Driving Permits for driving licence recognition post Brexit.

Budget 2018 – Members were updated on the latest news, including the confirmed freeze on fuel duty rates.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **Changes to DVSA Sift Policy and HGV Enforcement Targeting**

Members were given the latest information on DVSA plans for enforcement and future sifting of vehicles, whereby all Green rated vehicles would be given a full check and only Blue-rated Earned Recognition (ER) operators would be allowed to carry on.

Members held a full debate on their views and experiences of DVSA testing and ER. It was recognised that the combined OCRS (traffic and maintenance) hurts smaller operators. Council supported a review of the banding to help small operators lift themselves out of red easier than at present.

Representatives of the dealerships remarked that operators were asking for the least amount of work to be performed to pass the inspection regime.

There was a strong message from Council that no operator should fear a roadside inspection if they set out to perform well.

### **Access to EU Workforce**

Members were given an overview of the recommendations of the MAC Report, commissioned by the government, that set out a possible migration scheme for the UK in post-Brexit era.

Members felt that the MAC report should be reviewed and implement a more fluid skills-based immigration system rather than one based on strict banding.

Staged testing for a commercial driver was seen to be a barrier to encouraging employment. Some employers use a form of bond on new drivers to ensure that any training is funded.

### **Maximum Weights and Dimensions of HGVs**

Members were given a report on the status of the Longer Semi-trailer (LST) trial, whereby it appears to be that the environmental case has been proven by the results of vehicle journeys saved by the use of these trailers. Some members are now looking to renew their existing LST fleet and need to be reassured that the life of the new trailer will exceed the length of the trial, scheduled to end in 2024.

FTA has now asked that the trial is brought to an end and for the trailers to be moved into general haulage.

### **Abnormal Loads**

Members were given a presentation of HE plans to start charging for the route planning of abnormal loads, to ensure waterborne transport was used in place of road transport wherever economically possible.

### **Priorities for legislative change after Brexit**

Members discussed issues surrounding possibly increasing the length of the DCPC exam as it was felt there was not enough time for candidates. The practical benefits of in-cab driving are not recognised under the DCPC as JAUPPT does not recognise this aspect of training. The split between National and International TMCPC was also highlighted. One member raised the alignment of C&U for MOT with WFTA requirements as this lack was causing fails in 1<sup>st</sup> time tests.

### **AOB**

Members were given an update on Direct Vision and FORS from Natalie Chapman.

### **UK Council Attendees**

Brian Lomas

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 23 January 2019**