



# Freight Transport Association

## West Midlands Freight Council

Minutes of meeting held 24 October 2018  
Nailcote Hall, Nailcote Lane, Berkswell. CV7 7DE

### Chairman

Dave Rowlands

Wincanton Ltd

### Council Members

Dave Sharpe	Air Liquide UK Ltd.
Robert Gwyn	Hermes Parcelnet UK
Ema Jones	Warwickshire County Council
Brian Hancox	Speedy Asset Services Ltd.
Nathan Taylor-Allkins	Woodfines Solicitors
Tom Fallon	Post Office
Paul Kettle	GAP Group Ltd.
Kevin Partridge	NFT Distribution Ltd.
Steve Davies	TNT UK
P. Williamson	Fedex UK
Eddie Parker	Arval BNP Paribas
Mark Smith	Aldi Stores Ltd.
Sheree Baseley	Aggregate Industries
Richard Philpotts	Howard Tenens
Chris Paul	EH Smith Builders Merchants Ltd.
Warren Cooper	Alternative Parcel Company
Adrian Laice	Spiers & Hartwell Ltd.
Martin Parrack	Invergold
Paul Taylor	Morgan Sindall
Chris Faulkner	AS Miles Consulting Ltd.
Dave Higgs	A.F. Blakemore + Son
Michael Collins	Simmonds Transport Ltd.
Warren Adshead	Aspray 24
Nick Marshall	Cobley Transport
Linda McGlinchey	Sainsbury's
Gary Coleman	Nene Storage Equipment
David Atkinson	Unipart Logistics
Paul Simpson	Smiths Concrete Ltd.
Tom Price	NFU

Stephen Martin  
Ian Limeburner

Grafton  
One Broker

### **Guest Speakers**

Paul Davison	AECOM
Amanda Mushing	Highways England
David Manning	Lower Thames Crossing

### **FTA Staff**

Chris Yarsley  
James Firth  
Jessamine Osborn

### **Apologies and Minutes**

Apologies were entered and the Minutes of the last meeting were taken as tabled. The meeting was reminded about the FTA's policy on conduct of meetings.

### **Matters Arising**

Council was given a report on discussions at the 5 July 2018 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.

## **Presentation from AECOM/Highways England**

Members received a presentation from AECOM/Highways England (HE) on their 3yr stakeholder engagement project. There is a keen desire to increase the level of professional knowledge of the freight sector within HE, complementing the already existing knowledge of the industry that is held by HE Traffic Officers at the roadside.

HE is keen to engage with both operators and drivers to understand the freight industry's need for the infrastructure in terms of road network but also MSAs and driver facilities available along the roadside.

After highlighting the various schemes and training programmes available (e.g. DCPC course on Smart Motorways) HE gave members their contact details and appealed to members to get in touch with them to participate in interviews and consultations to pass over views.

## **Items for Discussion**

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

Members were given the latest information from James Firth 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 were cynical about the plans and consider it a backdoor way of forcing operators into the ER programme.

### **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.

There were no strong views on the MAC Report itself, but members continue to report that they are finding it hard to get drivers today, and are also fearful of the impact of the Driver CPC renewal next year when older drivers may decide to leave the industry rather than undertake another 35hours of training.

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

James Firth gave members 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.

One member raised the issue of the regulatory threshold of 3,5 tonnes and questioned if it could be moved to 5tns. Another asked if design weight could be looked at, rather than looking at C&U legislation, i.e. allowing greater weights on individual axels. There was general acceptance that weight and volume should be looked at together, there is no point carrying air as you hit the weight threshold.

### **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.

One member questioned whether the fee would be levied on existing abnormal load journeys that already use waterborne transport for the last mile road leg. It was generally felt that the system works well at present.

HE was holding a meeting the same day on the same issue. Information will be sent round to members.

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

Members agreed with the list of issues in the Policy Report. Other issues raised were Whole Vehicle Type Approval and the reissue of C1 driving licences.

### **Presentation – David Manning, Lower Thames Crossing**

Council received a presentation from the Lower Thames Crossing team on their engagement plan as the project moves from planning to delivery stage.

### **AOB**

Ema Jones from Warwickshire County Council gave an overview of a questionnaire that will be distributed to members that seeks views on the use of county roads by HGVs.

### **UK Council Attendees**

Dave Rowlands (maybe); Chris Paul (road); Eddie Parker (road); Paul Taylor (rail)

**Date of next meeting – 16 January 2019**