

## Van Policy Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 27 September, 10:30 – 13:00

Tesco Distribution Ltd, Danes Way, DIRFT East, Northamptonshire NN6 7FT

### 1. WELCOME, MEETING CONDUCT, COMPETITION LAW COMPLIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was chaired by James Adcroft (JA), who welcomed members and colleagues from Logistics UK to Tesco's offices in Daventry and in particular, Phil Roe, Logistics UK's President.

- Members were reminded by Denise Beedell (DB), about the competition law compliance guidance and referred members to the full details on page 2 of the Meeting Papers.
- Members introduced themselves and provided a brief update on issues of concern seen in their operations, which included:
  - Electrification – pressure to move to EV, mileage/challenges of routes in rural areas for EVs, difficulties posed for hub sites, public charging infrastructure, price of energy, cost of trained engineers and pressure to meet 2030 target.
  - Risk management – training and assessing drivers, driver skills.
  - Costs – Energy and reluctance of drivers to charge EVs at home and claim back costs, trained engineers and general vehicle parts including supply issues and resulting in longer periods for vehicles being off the road.
  - O-licensing – concern this could be introduced for vans in UK.
  - Driver behaviour, safety standards and telematics challenges.

### 2. MINUTES, NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

- The minutes were approved by the Van Policy Working Group (VPWG) members.
- There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. VAN OPERATOR CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES - DISCUSSION

Members were invited to discuss day to day challenges facing their van operations, historic and future van fleet support from Logistics UK, suggestions for future VPWG speakers and other relevant matters. Topics included:

- Public chargepoint network.
- Delaying electric vehicle acquisition due to concerns about making wrong decisions.
- Resistance to Operator Licensing for Vans.
- Importance of electric vehicle driver training.
- Safety and compliance concerns about electric vans and whether there should be self-regulation through voluntary schemes or direct legislation that would apply to all van operators. No consensus was reached.
- Concerns about driver working hours.
- Need to consider depot and transport managers and the way they approach van safety – not all about the drivers.
- Generation logistics – must promote driver positions to encourage younger people into the industry.

### 4. VAN POLICY PRIORITIES

Members discussed current and van policy priorities:

- **Electrification of commercial vehicles and infrastructure** – members commented on issues with vehicle servicing, reimbursing drivers for charging costs, maintenance contracts for leasing vans, ensuring public chargepoints can accommodate vans and take fuel cards and installation of charging hubs in the right locations. Members expressed an interest in participating in potential EV case study research – DB to provide more information when available.

**ACTION:** DB to provide more information about potential EV case study research when available.

- **Fiscal incentives, including grants and other incentives** – there was support for continuing to press for clarity about whether annual investment allowances can be used for mitigating the cost of increasing energy supply at depots.
- **Ultra-light logistics** – it was agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue.

- **Van security** – members felt that the research and report had raised the profile of this issue and that the Tell TVL campaign would help press the case for better allocation of police resources.
- **Van safety** – still considered an important issue, especially as electric vehicles become more widespread.

**ACTION:** Dave Conway agreed to send details of international van safety standards to DB on [dbeedell@logistics.org.uk](mailto:dbeedell@logistics.org.uk).

- **Regulation** – The Category B Derogation was covered in the next agenda item. DB flagged a light goods vehicle maintenance Good Practice Guide, currently being developed by Logistics UK's Engineering Forums and other stakeholders. Discussions covered the issue of costs and impact of operator licensing being introduced for vans.

**ACTION:** Members were asked to submit any comments or recommendation on the LGV Maintenance Good Practice Guide to Phil Lloyd, Head of Engineering Policy on [plloyd@logistics.org.uk](mailto:plloyd@logistics.org.uk).

**ACTION:** DB to check if the LGV Maintenance Good Practice Guide has been discussed with leasing companies.

## 5. DRIVING LICENCE FLEXIBILITY FOR AFVs CONSULTATION DISCUSSION

Members discussed the proposed draft submission to the consultation looking at [driving licence flexibility for alternatively fuelled vehicles \(AFVs\)](#), and were broadly in agreement with the response. Members were asked to consider possible responses to questions 5 to 8 from the consultation document. It was agreed that:

- there should not be a voluntary accreditation scheme similar to the current training as this is covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act and other regulation
- EV were no less safe than other conventionally fuelled vehicles and may even be safer due to passive or defensive driving behaviours to maximise vehicle mileage range
- the derogation should be extended to include other AFVs, for example people carriers and specialist vehicles

**ACTION:** Dan Crutchington agreed to supply wording about the Health and Safety at Work Act and other relevant regulation.

## 6. UK PUBLIC POLICY HIGHLIGHTS UPDATE

Members were directed to the current UK Policy activities updates on page 11 of the VPWG papers pack covering the Chancellor's Statement: Growth Plan, the Energy Bill Relief Scheme, the new Prime Minister and Cabinet, Decarbonisation and Net Zero discussions at Regional Freight Councils, the Future of Freight Plan, other driver licensing call for evidence, charging zone updates and details of the progress of the Generation Logistics campaign.

## 7. VAN POLICY WORKING GROUP MEETING DATES IN 2023

It was agreed that the group would next meet in person on Tuesday 7 February 2023, 10:30 to 13:00. The June and September meetings were tentatively agreed for 13 June and 12 September, both 10:30 to 13:00 subject to confirmation they do not clash with events currently being planned. It was hoped that physical meetings could be held where possible, with any ad hoc meetings held virtually when necessary.

**ACTION:** DB to send out calendar invitation for meetings in 2023.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Van Awards** – comments about how enjoyable and well organised the Van Awards event in early September had been.
- **Quality of meeting discussion** – comments about the quality of the discussions at the meeting and how important it is to continue to hold physical meetings to support good member engagement.

### Next meeting:

Tuesday 7 February, 10:30 – 13:00. Physical meeting – venue details to be sent in due course.

Meeting concluded at 13:10

## ATTENDEES

### Chair

James Adcroft

Tesco

### Members

Ross Baxter

Sciensus

Dave Conway

FM Conway

Julie Davies

Amey

Chris Georgiou

Currys Group Ltd

Ben Hodgson

DHL

Mark Karkeek

South West Water Plc

John Kerr

Unipart Logistics – Sky Fleet

Daniel McKeown

Ealing Council

Tony Murphy

Murphy Plant

Will Taylor

Bott Ltd

### Logistics UK Staff

Denise Beedell (Secretary)

Public Policy Manager

Caroline Brodersen

Graduate Policy Analyst

Dan Crutchington

Senior Transport Advisor

Ian Dunn

Strategic Development Manager

Eric Higham

Senior Contract Manager – Vehicle Inspection Service

Phil Roe

President

Ian Wright

General Manager – Major Account Development