

## Van Policy Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 10:30 – 12:30

Via Teams

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

The meeting was chaired by James Adcroft (JA), Transport Compliance Manager – Distribution and Fulfilment at Tesco, who welcomed members and colleagues from Logistics UK.

Denise Beedell (DB) reminded members about the competition law compliance guidance and to avoid sharing any sensitive information that is currently not in the public domain.

### 2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 September 2023 were agreed.
- All actions were ongoing or completed.

### 3. VAN PLAN CAMPAIGN – UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

Catherine Bowen, Senior Policy Advisor at the BVRLA gave an overview of the Zero Emission Van Plan Campaign – a joint campaign partnering with Logistics UK, Recharge UK, Association of Fleet Professions (AFP) and the EV Cafe. Members were encouraged to use the 'Write to your MP' online tool which will send MPs the Van Plan document, to complete a short online survey and to submit positive case studies to DB. There will also be an open letter sent to the Chancellor before the Budget 2024, and members are asked to consider supporting this.

**ACTION:** DB to circulate links to the ZE Van Plan, Write to your MP tool and the survey to members.

**ACTION:** DB to circulate the draft template open letter for the Chancellor to members to ask if their organisation will support it and if so, to send their logo to DB to add to the letter by 29 February.

Members were broadly supportive in principle and comments about costs and vehicle acquisition were made. A question was asked about alternatively fuelled 4.25 tonne vans being tested as HGVs and whether they have to be added to an operator's O Licence. Dan Crutchington (DC) confirmed that they do not, due the exemption.

### 4. MANAGING RISK FOR VAN OPERATORS

Andrew Millinship, Transport Risk Practice Leader from WTW (Risk Solutions & Insurance Brokers) gave a presentation on how to manage risk when operating van fleets, including considerations for introducing electric vans into fleets. With Stewart Osmond, they responded to questions from members covering:

- Mitigating risk of EV fires and costs of vehicle replacement
- Spacing of vehicles in depots and vehicle parks
- Safety comparisons between EV and ICE vehicles

### 5. POLICY UPDATE

DB provided members with an update on relevant van policy matters including:

- Driving Licence Flexibility for Alternatively Fuelled Vehicles (AFVs) up to 4.25 tonnes – no date has yet been set by Parliament for these changes to be made law.
- Road Safety Priorities discussed at Road Council – Jonathan Walker updated members that Logistics UK is currently refreshing our position to identify our asks as well as building relationships with other organisations, such as road safety charities. We are aware there is a particular issue with van safety and are seeking more in-depth conversations through the formation of a small group.

**ACTION:** Members interested in taking part in the Road Safety group to email [jwalker@logistics.org.uk](mailto:jwalker@logistics.org.uk).

- Budget 2024 and Logistics UK's submission to the Treasury – which largely covers the same asks as the Autumn Statement Submission and leads on a call for the 5ppl cut in fuel duty due to end on

23 March 2024 to be extended. Details of the submission are available [here](#) (member log-in required).

- Logistics UK's General Election manifesto launched on 22 January with a top call for the UK's next government to appoint a Minister for Logistics and Supply Chain. The manifesto is available [here](#).

**Consultations:**

- [Rapid Charging Fund: scheme design - Logistics UK submission](#) (member log-in required)
- [Non-road mobile machinery \(NRMM\): decarbonisation options](#) – call for evidence closes 26 March.

**ACTION:** Members are asked to send in comments about the NRMM call for evidence to DB by 29 February.

Dan Crutchington (DC), Senior Transport Advisor at Logistics UK updated members on the top van queries received at the Member Advice Centre (MAC):

- International tachograph rules
- Queries about managing mixed fleets
- MOT testing of AFVs

He also outlined the matters to be discussed at the Utilities WG on 14 March meeting being held at Weightmans LLP offices in central Birmingham:

- Direct Vision Standards – update on progressive safe system from James Ashford, Brigade
- Public Inquiry – interactive settings from Weightmans
- Tesmac Trailers – use on UK roads, presentation from Adrian Wanford, Balfour Beatty.

**6. ADOPTION OF NEW CHAIR**

Colin James, General Manager Compliance & Risk at DPD Group UK, was confirmed as Chair of the Van Policy Working from 25 June 2024 meeting, taking over from James Adcroft, Transport Compliance Manager at Tesco at the completion of his extended term of office. James was thanked for his work on behalf of the group and he congratulated Colin on his appointment and assured members that he would remain an engaged member of the group.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- There was no other business.
- Details of future events were flagged to members.

**Next meetings:**

- Tuesday 25 June – via Teams or physical meeting - tbc
- Tuesday 3 September – via Teams

Meeting finished at 11:50

## ATTENDEES

### Chair

James Adcroft

Tesco

### Speakers

Catherine Bowen  
Andrew Millinship  
Stewart Osmond

Senior Policy Advisor, BVRLA  
Transport Risk Practice Leader, WTW  
Haulage and Logistics Director, WTW

### Members

Ross Baxter  
Richard Crook  
Kellie Davies  
Alun Gamble  
Chris Georgiou  
Ben Hodgson  
Tommy Howieson  
Masoud Inayat  
Colin James  
John Kerr  
Daniel McKeown  
Ian McClone  
Andrew Ray  
Barrie Wilson  
Matthew Wright

Sciensus  
DHL GB  
Kinto UK  
Waitrose  
Currys Group Ltd  
DHL GB  
South Ayrshire Council  
LB Ealing  
DPD  
Unipart  
LB Ealing  
M Group Services Ltd  
Brandon Hire Plc  
Fleetcheck  
South Ayrshire Council

### Logistics UK Staff

Denise Beedell (Secretary)  
Dan Crutchington  
Ian Dunn  
Hannah Gowlett  
Jacqui Hillhouse  
Eric Higham  
Jonathan Walker

Senior Policy Manager  
Senior Transport Advisor  
Strategic Development Manager  
Key Account Manager  
Support Services Manager - Training  
Senior Contract Manager – Vehicle Inspection Service  
Head of Infrastructure and Cities Policy