

Van Policy Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 25 June 2024, 10:30 – 12:30

Via Teams

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

The meeting was chaired by Colin James (CJ), General Manager Compliance and Risk at DPD Group UK, 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 OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 February 2024 were agreed.
- All actions were completed. No errors, omissions or typos were reported.

3. LOGISTICS UK PRE AND POST GENERAL ELECTION ACTIVITY

Ben Garratt, Deputy Director – Public Affairs, updated members on Logistics UK's activities before and after the general election covering:

- Main headline message: 'Logistics underpins the economy'.
- No change in Logistics UK policy position, but language used by Labour is being looked at to ensure our message aligns and lands well.
- Constituency tool being refreshed to recognise boundary changes.
- Exports are decreasing – due to UK economic downward demand and manufacturing reduction.
- Logistics UK manifesto and policy priorities are aimed at an external audience.
- New ministerial announcements after election may take a few days.
- Some legislation we want to see may be introduced through statutory instruments and will not be mentioned in the King's speech on 17 July.
- Devolved governments are not subject to pre-election restrictions and Logistics UK have still been able to arrange meetings with Welsh and Scottish ministers and officials.
- Considering the Labour manifesto, we will be seeking clarity on various statements including the commitment to bring forward the 2030 phaseout for new non-zero emission cars (vans were not mentioned). There was nothing on some of our key asks including low carbon fuel, logistics roadmap to net zero and phase out of fossil fuel, fuel duty or a dedicated minister for logistics – so plenty to still call for after the election.
- We will be competing for attention with other stakeholders in the first year especially as there will be lots of new MPs who will need educating about logistics.
- Logistics UK will be putting together some stock visits to our members, submitting transport questions for use in the Commons and briefing notes for MPs.
- We plan to attend Labour and Tory party conferences and run two events at each.

4. LOGISTICS UK BRIDGE STRIKE eLEARNING MODULE

Jacqui Hillhouse, Support Service Manager – Training, updated members on Logistics UK's new Bridge Strike eLearning module.

- This is an issue which heavily impacts van operations as demonstrated by Network Rail data.
- The Bridge Strike module has been developed through collaboration with Network Rail, the Traffic Commissioners and supported with video content from Greggs.
- Remote courses are not for everyone, but since the pandemic the landscape for delivering training has changed.
- Logistics UK will be introducing more modules.
- The course content can be provided on a bespoke basis and member can also self-host the training.

ACTION: Jacqui Hillhouse to provide a link to more information to DB to circulate to members.

5. ZEV MANDATE – MEMBER DISCUSSION

Members discussed their experience of acquiring new vehicles and how manufacturers' approaches in relation to the ZEV Mandate quotas may impact their operations and plans for transitioning their van fleets to zero emission. Discussions covered:

- So far Ford are the only manufacturer imposing quota limits for individual orders, but other manufacturers are considering taking a similar approach. Members expect them all to follow suit.
- Maxus have started to offer diesel versions again.
- EV prices remain higher than diesel equivalents – around 30% higher.
- Members who have traditionally opted for Ford vans, are considering other marques.
- Concern that manufacturers may reduce range of vehicle models offered to UK customers as manufacturers focus on other countries with fewer restrictions on types of vehicles sold.
- Operators with small orders are rethinking their replacement plans.
- Bigger impact on small businesses, who do not submit large fleet orders.
- Leasing companies also experiencing difficulties obtaining wide ranges of vehicles to supply customers – seeing some lease companies including EVs in orders and gifting them to charity.
- Residual values are very low for EVs currently.
- Large operators who have already opted to only buy ZE vehicles are unaffected by the quotas.

6. POLICY UPDATE

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

- **Automated Vehicles Act** - achieved royal assent and became law on 20 May 2024.
- **Scotland LEZs** – now fully enforced. These zones differ from England are a ban. Non-compliant vehicles entering the restricted areas will receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).
- **4.25 tonne driver licence flexibility** – the proposed changes did not progress fully and fell before parliament was dissolved for the general election. Logistics UK will be calling for this issue to be looked at urgently by the new government.
- **Driver CPC rule changes** – these were laid before parliament and are awaiting resumption of the relevant Parliamentary Committee to set a timetable for adoption.

Dan Crutchington (DC), Senior Transport Advisor at Logistics UK answered members questions about the current rules with the 4.25 tonne derogation for alternatively fuelled vehicles (AFVs) and covered:

- Operator Licence
- Driver's hours and tachograph
- Trailers
- Testing
- Driver CPC
- Training

A discussion followed on the use of 4.25 tonne AFVs on motorways, rules in Northern Ireland, and use of 4.25t AFVs for personal use by drivers.

Interesting van queries received at the Member Advice Centre (MAC) included:

- Expiration of C1 licence when CPC is still valid
- Use of W20 books to record domestic hours
- Checks of vehicles by night trunk drivers.

DC also covered the mock Public Inquiry held at Weightmans LLP offices in Birmingham on 20 June and invited members to attend the next meeting of the Utilities WG being held on 12 September at Vaculug in Grantham.

ACTION: Members wishing to attend the next Utilities WG meeting to contact DC direct. DB to circulate DC's email address.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Next meeting:

- Tuesday 3 September – via Teams

Meeting finished at 12:32

ATTENDEES

Chair

Colin James

DPD

Speakers

Jacqui Hillhouse

Logistics UK, Support Services Manager - Training

Ben Garratt

Logistics UK, Deputy Director – Public Affairs

Members

James Adcroft

Tesco

Ben Anstee

Northern Powergrid

Louise Barnes

Wessex Water

Ross Baxter

Sciensus

Richard Crook

DHL GB

Kellie Davies

Kinto UK

Chris Georgiou

Currys Group Ltd

Ben Hodgson

DHL GB

Carl Hughes

Hughes Driver Training

Joe Masters

Your Housing Group Ltd

Daniel McKeown

LB Ealing

Barrie Wilson

Fleetcheck

Logistics UK Staff

Katie Adams

Senior Policy Analyst

Denise Beedell (Secretary)

Senior Policy Manager

Dan Crutchington

Senior Transport Advisor

Hannah Gowlett

Key Account Manager

Eric Higham

Senior Contract Manager – Vehicle Inspection Service

Chris Yarsley

Senior Policy Manager