

Van Policy Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 3 September 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 25 June 2024 were agreed.
- All actions were completed. No errors, omissions or typos were reported.

3. LAND FOR LOGISTICS PROJECT

Laura Carleton, Engagement Manager – Road User Charging and Freight, and Emily Kingston, Principal City Planner (Freight), at Transport for London (TfL) gave a presentation about small site opportunities that could house micro-logistics hubs for the last mile delivery sector as part of TfL's Land for Logistics Project. A discussion with members followed which covered:

- The timescales of the project.
- Examples of sites available.
- Needs of electricity supply for recharging vehicles at the sites.
- One member said they were moving away from micro depots due to the improvements in mileage range of zero-emission vehicles.

ACTION: DB to circulate email contacts for Laura Carleton and Emily Kingston to members.

4. MANAGING VAN FLEETS AND DRIVERS – RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nick Newman, Partner, and Chris Powell, Principal Associate, at Weightmans LLP, spoke to members about the legal risks and opportunities of managing van fleets and drivers. Areas they covered included:

- Employment status/entity.
- Driver retention.
- Employment law changes on the horizon.
- Transport Manager allocation and the Traffic Commissioner jurisdiction issues for van fleet operators.
- Psychosocial risk and employer mental health risks.
- HSE Inspection/Enforcement.

A discussion followed which covered:

- Definition of disabilities and hidden disabilities
- Impacts of failing to make reasonable adjustments and discrimination laws
- Anticipating new laws expected from Labour government including:
 - Employees/workers' rights.
 - Right to claim unfair dismissal from Day 1.
 - Right to switch off.
 - Request for predictable working patterns.
 - Sexual harassment in the workplace – enhanced protections.
- Balancing business policy approaches aimed at encouraging more diversity.
- Management of employee mental health at all levels of workforce, including senior managers and executives.
- Guidance for Transport Managers' hours and duties with mixed fleets and the importance of proactive management and reporting of changes to the Traffic Commissioner.

ACTION: DB to circulate email contacts for Nick Newman and Chris Powell to members.

5. POLICY UPDATE

Members were given an update on relevant Logistics UK public affairs activity from Natalie Chapman, which included:

- Logistics UK engagement with the new government and Parliament.
- Planned attendance at party conferences.
- Submission to Treasury ahead of the Autumn Budget.
- National Planning Policy Framework consultation.

ACTION: DB to circulate link to Logistics UK Manifesto and to flag the link on slides of the First 100 Days priorities.

DB updated members on relevant Logistics UK policy activity covering:

- OZEV informal announcement about a consultation looking at the phase out dates for fully combustion engine vehicles to include hybrid vehicles and vans.
- Members expressed frustration at the developing barriers from lack of information changes to regulations for use of 4.25t battery electric vans.
- Several members put their names forward to be used for case studies or meetings with ministers and officials if required.

ACTION: DB to send details of members offering their time to support our lobbying on the 4.25t issue to Chris Yarsley.

- Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) changes coming in for Battery Electric Vehicles from 1 April 2025.

ACTION: DB to circulate further information about the changes to members.

Dan Crutchington covered the top van enquiries received from members at the Member Advice Centre (MAC) on:

- Legality of seat belt extenders.
- Use of Category L licence to drive a 4.25t electric vehicle.
- Maintenance providers record keeping of inspection and repair.
- Driver Qualification Card delays.

6. REFOCUS WORKING GROUP PURPOSE FROM BROAD VAN POLICY TO URBAN & LAST MILE DELIVERY POLICY

DB updated members on proposals to refocus the policy purpose of the working group on urban and last mile delivery policy, presented details of the new Terms of Reference and confirmed that the current Chair, Colin James, will continue as chair.

ACTION: DB to circulate the new Terms of Reference for the Urban and Last Mile Delivery Working Group to members.

Members who are not engaged in the urban or delivery sectors are invited to move across to the Utilities Services Working Group or the Waste Forum.

ACTION: DB to send contact details of Dan Crutchington for the Utilities Service WG and Tom Griffith for the Waste Forum for members wishing to move across to these member groups.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Van Awards 2024** – members of the Van Policy WG were invited to attend the Awards Lunch on Friday 13 September, at the Hyatt Regency in Birmingham, free of charge (including a plus one).

ACTION: DB to send contact details for Tiffancy Coates for members wishing to accept the invitation to attend the Van Awards 2024 Lunch on 13 September in Birmingham.

- **Dates for 2025 meetings** were flagged to members:
 - Tuesday 18 February 2025
 - Tuesday 10 June 2025
 - Tuesday 9 September 2025
- **Denise Beedell Retirement** – DB confirmed that this meeting was her last member meeting before her imminent retirement from Logistics UK at the end of September. Phil Roe and Colin James expressed their thanks on behalf of members for her hard work and enthusiastic support of the group and sent best wishes for her retirement.

Meeting finished at 12:30

