

Greater London member meeting minutes

Wednesday 22 January 2025
09:30 – 12:30
18 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1

INTRODUCTION

- Norman Harding opened the meeting, with a roundtable of introductions. A tribute to former member, Ray Govier, was read out, following his recent death.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Members were reminded by the Secretary about the competition law compliance guidance.

Secretary's report

- Members were updated with details from Road Council on 7 November 2024 and recent meetings of modal councils. Updates on other key national policy issues including the open consultation on regulatory thresholds for BEVs up to 4.25tns.

GUEST SPEAKER – Sarah Bell – Traffic Commissioner for London

Sarah Bell updated members on the work she has been undertaking as portfolio lead for Enforcement, alongside Kevin Rooney, sitting on a number of different groups, such as DVSA's Strategic Partnership Group; Roads policing review. She committed to being the voice of the operator as these bodies are not public-facing, so the voice of Logistics UK would be heard at the table.

Special type movements on the motorways was highlighted as a particular challenge with 44 different policing bodies, making it difficult to harmonise enforcement across the country. This issue has been raised by certain sectors, e.g. construction, as creating problems for the circulation of plant across the country.

She emphasised that she is promoting more practical training, over class-based refresher training, as this is the best method to learn about all aspects of road freight. She highlighted the work being undertaken on the revision to the TM CPC syllabus, to ensure the qualification remains fit for purpose.

Other updates included STC Richard Turfitt standing down, fee reform, and a change in OTC procedure for anonymity of case workers, following recent public abuse.

MAC Update

Tom Griffith presented an introduction of, and an update from the MAC, with a horizon scan for the next three months. Members were shown an analysis of what calls the MAC has been receiving in last months, with drivers hours being the subject most members asked questions about.

Greater London issues

- London Lorry Control Scheme: members were informed that an industry meeting will take place on 6 February as the first step in obtaining the data required to lobby London Councils for a change in the restrictions.
- Direct Vision Standard Phase 2: members were asked to send in any comments they have from the initial period of Phase 2, from October 2024.
- Robert Constant, Lightermen and Watermen of London, gave a presentation on the use of the Thames in freight and logistics in London.

AGENDA ITEMS

A1 Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review

Members received a presentation on what took place in the 2024 Budget and a forward look to the Comprehensive Spending Review to be held later in 2025.

Member feedback:

- Employer NI rise will subdue any recruitment activity.
- Inheritance tax changes will negatively impact on smaller, family run firms.
- Government should look to a greater degree of digitalisation of documents to help reduce administrative costs, e.g. the operator licence disc.

A2 Speed limits

Members held a discussion on speed limits, prompted by recent changes in different limits in Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall.

Member feedback:

- It is generally felt that there are more restrictions that 'pop up', and there needs to be better notification of changes to existing limits.
- Members asked about the fuel consumption rates for 20mph compared to 30mph?
- An imposition of a blanket 20mph, compared to a targeted zone around sensitive areas, led to overall compliance dropping.

A3 Graduated driving licences (GDL)

Members discussed the subject of GDL, among recent public discourse, and the possibility that it could emerge in any future road safety strategy. It was made clear to members there were no firm proposals on the table for discussion.

Member feedback:

- Members agreed that vocational licence holders should not face restrictions placed upon newly qualified drivers, except on alcohol in blood.
- Members felt that newly qualified drivers to be better than those who may not have undertaken training for a period of time.

A4 Domestic drivers' hours (DDH)

Members held a discussion on the domestic drivers' hours regime and if they would wish to see a possible review of the definitions used within it. This was the result of discussions with DVSA which is looking at the subject, members were informed that there were no concrete proposals at the time.

Member feedback:

- Members felt there would be a benefit in clarifying the definitions used in the DDH regime, such as 'adequate rest'.
- Members held different views as to the use of a rolling work period, compared to a fixed calendar day, with some preferring the flexibility this offered, and others stating that a fixed day would be easier to understand.
- All would prefer to see the ability to log DDH on an app based system, rather than continue to use the logbook.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Chair asked for volunteers to apply for the role of Vice Chairs, with aim of taking over the Chair in one year.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 14 May 09:30 – 12:30 (finishing with lunch). 18 Smith Square, Westminster.

ATTENDEES

Name

Norman Harding

Company

LB Hackney – Chair

Member

Daniel Pop

Air Liquide + Energas

Vlad Lakvell

LB Tower Hamlets

Steven Jeffries

Veolia

John Saunders

Constantine Limited

Lauren Fry

Day Group

Lucy Wild

Day Group

Masoud Inayat

Greener Ealing Ltd.

David Wilson

Fleet Technology Ltd.

Greg Kerlake

Royal Mail

Matthew Stratton

Birketts Law

Jim Valentine

Consultant – Art & Design Logistics

Barry Bailey

Watson Fuels

Robert McIlveen

MPA

Richard Fletcher

MTS Cleansing

Grant Jardine

Reynolds Catering

Robert Constant

Company of Watermen & Lightermen

Mick Dearle

LWC Drinks

James Adcroft

Tesco

Ben Hodgson

DHL

David Smith

Construction Plant-Hire Association

Jim Chappell

TRL Ltd.

Attehea Azam

Wilson James

Tony Lenihan

Wilson James

Stephen Bremner

Lynch Plant Hire + Haulage

Speaker

Sarah Bell

Traffic Commissioner

Staff

Chris Yarsley

Ellis Shelton

Marco Scalzo