

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 – Doubletree Glasgow Westerwood

Welcome and Introductions

Freight Council chair and vice chair were unable to attend, so Jonathan Walker (Logistics UK) chaired the meeting and highlighted obligations in respect of competition law. Following a round of introductions the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Minutes of last meeting

No comments or feedback from members regarding minutes from the previous council meeting.

Secretary's Report

Jonathan Walker (JW) updated members on various items including:

- Decisions taken at the last Road Council
- Updates on recent multi modal councils and working groups.

Members who wish to know more about the groups should contact the following:

Rail, Water and Air Councils: Alexandra Herdman aherdman@logistics.org.uk

Warehouse Working Group: Jonathan Walker jwalker@logistics.org.uk

Customs & Trade Council and Shippers Council: Nichola Mallon nmallon@logistics.org.uk

Van Policy Working Group and Environment Working Group: Denise Beedell dbeedell@logistics.org.uk

Innovation Working Group: Ben Garrett bgarratt@logistics.org.uk

Scottish Skills Group: Jonas Keat jkeat@logistics.org.uk

Presentation on Logistics UK van-related activities

Ian Wright (IW), Logistics UK, gave a presentation to members on the organisation's work to support members operating van fleets.

The number of vans on the road has increased yet compliance requirements are much lower than HGVs. Logistics UK has been collating feedback from members re their concerns – vehicle and cost related - when operating van fleets. This feedback is being used to devise and provide support and solutions for the industry. As a first step Logistics UK is working on providing a Van Resource Centre as a one stop shop for information and the supportive tools operators need with a focus on assessment/education of drivers and vehicle management. IW emphasised the importance of members sharing insights and feedback via Logistics UK Working Groups and Freight Councils to inform policy and ensure we are providing the current and future support members need.

During members' discussion the following challenges when it comes to electric vans were raised: driver awareness and adhering to speed limits, productivity/real life range when loaded and ability to pull tonnes compared with diesel vans, getting places to service vehicles, having the space and training required to service vehicles in house, price of installing charging infrastructure and the lack of government financial support for transition. Despite the tight deadline for Scottish Local Authorities (by 2025) one member reported that their council is holding back on moving to electric vans because of these reasons and because they can buy 3 diesel vehicles for the same price.

Action: IW to meet with Scottish Local Councils for a Van Working Group session.

Policy ask: Scottish government needs to either give financial support or revise deadlines to make them more realistic.

Regional Items

Full details of regional items can be found in the policy report.

- Zero Emission Truck Taskforce (ZETT) - Logistics UK has been involved in the ZETT from its inception. The report outlining how Scotland can support the freight sector in moving to zero emission trucks is expected in 2024.
- Safety and dualling on the A9 – contract is now expected to be awarded in early Summer 2024.
- Legal challenge to the Clean Air Zone in Glasgow – case is being heard in Court today. Logistics UK will closely monitor the outcome and wider implications for other Clean Air Zones

Agenda Items

Windsor Framework and Border Target Operating Model

Nichola Mallon (NM) gave an overview. During discussion members cited experience of trying to move goods from Scotland to NI and RoI during Mad Cow Disease and expressed concern that these new proposals could lead to delays at the ports and put smaller operators out of business.

Parking restrictions

JW talked to this item and asked members for intelligence and feedback to inform and revise Logistics UK's policy position on this issue. Members shared the following experiences:

- Being awarded parking penalties when working within retail parks, i.e., carrying out pest control, and the appeals process is very difficult and time consuming.
- Parking fines while doing deliveries when parking further away breaches health and safety if the driver has to physically carry heavy loads to the shop and fines for parking up to adhere to drivers' hours regulations.
- One member said they have had to stop delivering to smaller businesses because of the increased cost of fines which means a reduction in customers for them and reduced choice for consumers accessing those shops.
- Members highlighted that if drivers can't take vehicles home, park them up and charge them because of parking restrictions in housing developments then this will add a significant cost to businesses. E.g. One council sends 600 vehicles home with drivers every night.
- There was agreement on the need for proportionality rather than a blanket ban approach. New housing developments via the planning system should have space and capacity to park and charge vehicles.

Statutory role for Fleet Engineers

Phil Lloyd (PL) set out where this item came from – concern at operators outsourcing maintenance, doing away with the role of fleet engineer, and subsuming the role into that of the Transport Manager or Compliance Manager who may not have fleet engineer knowledge. The Engineering Forum considered the role of a Fleet Manager, where we are currently and where the industry wants to be in the future i.e., autonomous vehicles when there is no driver to do the walk around checks etc. The Engineering Forum, a Working Group of Freight Councils, is recommending putting this role on a statutory footing.

Members discussion:

- The expertise of a Fleet Manager cannot be offset to a third party. A business needs someone to audit their work. 'The work of Dealerships is not as good as it used to be'.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of vans on the road to deliver e-commerce goods. For these reasons a Fleet Manager is important.
- What qualification would a Fleet Manager need? Answer – a technical qualification and ongoing CPC.

- Q1 – Full agreement – Members agree with the background and current situation as outlined in the report.
- Q2 – Yes, having a form of ‘Fleet Engineer’ adds value by assisting the Transport Manager in addressing knowledge and skill gaps; in providing advice when before the Traffic Commissioner or a Public Inquiry and via their expertise during a restructure or acquisition.
- Q3 – Concerns – how do you know the Fleet Engineer is doing a good job for you? Will need an outside agency coming in to carry out due diligence. Cost? Answer – costs have to be worked out.

Schengen immigration restrictions

JW gave an overview of this issue to raise awareness and ask for feedback. Members noted the item.

AOB

A member raised the issue of EV Fires and the need for it to be highlighted in the industry given the dangers. How is this being factored into businesses’ emergency response? How is it being factored into battery storage and the planning process for the location of charging infrastructure? At the minute it is falling between regulations.

Action: This needs to be brought forward as an Agenda Item

Date and venue of next meeting:

Tuesday 16 January
(PLEASE NOTE THIS IS DIFFERENT TO THE DATE GIVEN AT THE MEETING)
12:30 – 16:00 (Lunch from 12:00)
Doubletree Glasgow Westerwood

ATTENDANCE LIST

Present	Also in Attendance
Matthew Lane – Scottish Water Matthew Wright – South Ayrshire Council Graeme Beatie – South Ayrshire Council Jock Templeton – North Lanarkshire Council Craig Brown – ASDA John Forrest – Tesco Des McCue – East Renfrewshire Council Mick Fullbrook – Bidfood Colin MacFrinnon – Ferguson Transport Chris Brown – Esken Renewables Greg Paterson – Boc LTD Mick Thumwood – Markon LTD Bob Adamson – Leiths (Scotland) LTD John McElhinney – Renfrewshire Council Kerry Rankine – Fife Council Billy Ferguson – Fife Council Stuart McLean – TRL Colin McClair – North Lanarkshire Council	Phil Lloyd – Logistics UK Jonathan Walker – Logistics UK Nichola Mallon – Logistics UK Fiona Watt – Logistics UK Ian Wright – Logistics UK Jacqui Hillhouse – Logistics UK Alexandra Herdman – Logistics UK