

Motorists Forum

Minutes of meeting 12th June 2013

Attendees:

Edmund King (Chair)	AA
John Lewis	BRVLA
David Quarmby	RAC Foundation
Stephen Joseph	Campaign for Better Transport
Garrett Emmerson	TfL
David Bizley	RAC Motoring
Theo de Pencier	FTA
Graham Dalton	HA
Christopher Macgowan	
DfT	
Tricia Hayes	Director, Motoring, Freight and London
John Dowie (Items 1 – 5)	Director, Strategic Roads and Smart Ticketing
Paul O'Sullivan	Road Strategy and Charging
Richard Bruce (Item 3)	Office of Low Emission Vehicles
Ian Yarnold (Item 3)	International Vehicle Standards
Jessica Matthew DfT (Item 5)	Road User Licensing, Insurance and Safety
Andrew Ashbourne (Item 6)	International Cooperation
Miriam Lea	DfT, Forum Secretariat

Apologies

David Davies, PACTS
 Nick Starling, ABI
 Dave Jones, ACPO
 Mike Baunton, SMMT

Item 1 - Introduction and minutes

Edmund King opened the meeting, running through apologies and actions from the last meeting. News that Michael Hawes will be joining as SMMT's new Chief Executive in early Autumn was cascaded to members. The minute of the last meeting was formally accepted and the following actions carried over:

Resource budget information to be sent to members alongside publication of Annual Report (Secretariat) – Annual Report published - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209980/annual-report-and-accounts-2012-2013.pdf. Relevant table on page 120

ACPO consulted around road safety concerns following BBC's 'Barely Legal' programme (Chair)

Members asked to reflect on issues around fuel price signage and contact Tricia Hayes with any evidence/views (All members)

Item 2 - DfT Oral Update (presented in two parts)

Tricia Hayes outlined a series of announcements that had been made since the last meeting, notably May's announcement of a further 62 local pinch point fund

schemes, bringing the total to 72 schemes, with an overall value of £300m, with both DfT and Local Authority contributions factored in.

Members were made aware that the HA had published its first three Route Based Strategies - <http://www.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/managing-our-roads/route-based-strategies/> Members had a discussion around the process going forward, and it was agreed that we would return to look at this in the next meeting
[ACTION: Graham Dalton/HA)

It was noted that PoPLA (Parking on Private Land Appeals) had published its Annual Report, following the April meeting - <http://www.popla.org.uk/AnnualReport.htm> Over around 4000 appeals, 2000 had been deferred and the appeals service had found in favour of around 1050 (around 54%). Questions around the process for PoPLA's appointment of Chair were raised, alongside concerns around the timescale for the recruitment of a Board, which seems to have slipped.

Members were informed that the Lower Thames Crossing consultation was open and that we welcomed responses - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-on-location-of-new-thames-crossing>

It was noted that the Spending Review is planned for 26th June and that this was a major piece of work for DfT staff.

It was agreed to cover David Quarmby's paper on Alcohol and Motorway Service Areas in item 5, on Road Safety.

Item 3 – Vehicle Futures

Richard Bruce, Head of Office for Low Emission Vehicles and Ian Yarnold, Head of International Vehicle Standards were welcomed to the meeting. Richard gave a short presentation, providing an overview of how technologies were changing within the UK automobile industry and the drivers of change - EU regulation; incentives, fiscal support, research and development and infrastructure. Current take up was noted, alongside the lack of consensus at the moment about which technology will dominate in future. A short discussion followed around whether interest in low emission vehicles was waning and views/projections from manufacturers. It was noted that changes in technologies and meeting carbon reduction targets represented an opportunity for UK manufacturing and industry.

Ian Yarnold, then gave a short presentation on the work of his unit. He noted that his work was governed by regulation, and changes were not as driven by consumer/market incentives. EuroNCAP was highlighted as a programme that had produced profound changes in raising the standards of safety. Ongoing work around improving safety to prevent neck and head injuries was outlined, as part of the aim of reducing the cost of whiplash injuries. Developments being made by manufacturers to help prevent pedestrian casualties were highlighted, as well as opportunities identified for where new technologies may take in-car safety. Ian also presented work on vehicle dynamics, and outlined that many standard features have come to mass market following development in the lorry and commercial vehicle sector (e.g., electronic stability control). Ian also mentioned his team's work in supporting Government efforts to reduce pollutants and noise.

The Department's work in supporting autonomous vehicles was also outlined, and the work being done by Oxford University in trialling an autonomous vehicle. Differences with the vehicles being pioneered by Google were identified. DfT's role in identifying and working on increasing knowledge and understanding of legal issues were noted, and the point made about helping to support UK industry in this area.

News of a feasibility study into platooning was noted as well as DfT's work in better understanding urban mobility systems. The challenges of e-call were discussed in the forum. **[copies of slides to be circulated with minute]**

Item 4 – Roads Reform

John Dowie, Head of Strategic Roads and Smart Ticketing, and Paul O'Sullivan, of Road Strategy and Charging gave an update to the various strands of roads reform work being carried out. It was noted that there were overlaps with the Spending Round and as such, difficult to outline detail as cross-department discussions continue to take place. The valuable feedback from important stakeholders including the forum has been important in developing policy and that issues raised were being addressed as part of this work. Points made by Alan Cook in his report were also being considered as part of Ministerial aspirations to improve the planning, performance and management of the road network. Secretary of State's interest in the improvement of local roads noted. The strong expectation of a roads reform paper shortly was signalled as well as the desire to continue discussions with members as a forum and individually. Members queried progress on the Roads Strategy, and were informed that there would likely be a number of publications that addressed long term strategic objectives and vision for the road network in the coming year.

Item 5 – Road Safety Update

Jessica Matthew, Head of Road User Licensing, Insurance and Safety updated the group on a number of recent announcements including the increase in fixed penalty notices and the introduction of a new offence for careless driving. Edmund King mentioned that the All Parliamentary Group on Cycling were interested in whether there will be a campaign that puts together careless driving and cycling and was asked to convey that there was a forward schedule for campaigns for the short/medium terms but that the Department was open to ideas for effective campaigns beyond that.

Members went on to discuss the new Drink Drive campaign and it was noted that Edmund King had seen a lot of reaction on twitter. Members were told that the YouTube film had had over 4.5m views at the start of the week.

The Ministry of Justice Traffic Courts announcement was shared with members, and the news that some days were now being allocated purely for traffic offences at magistrates courts after pilot projects in some areas had proved successful in speeding up court proceedings.

Online web resources were touched on, with John Lewis of BVRLA asking when the Observatory would populate the workplace driving section of the observatory, which would be helpful to members.

Forum members were updated on the progress of two important pieces of work on both drug driving and young drivers and given an updated timetable of activity and the overall direction of policy.

David Bizley queried whether there would be the opportunity for new drivers to practice in adverse weather, an area of weakness following the test as outlined by his members. There was a discussion around work around young drivers sat with age discrimination legislation, and how experience in other vehicles was being considered.

It was noted that the Deregulation Bill would include provision for getting rid of the Statutory Option to have a blood as well as breath test for those drivers caught by

police at just over the limit. The change will ensure better enforcement of current drink drive laws.

Edmund King updated members on news that the AA Driving School now offered a module on cycle safety, which was now standard and part of learning to drive. Theo de Pencier noted that such training was standard for professional drivers. A short discussion was held on the benefits of cycling to those learning to drive, and how core road use skills could be learnt well before taking charge of a vehicle.

Item 2 – Oral Updates – Paper on Alcohol and Motorway Service Areas (David Quarmby, RAC Foundation)

David Quarmby presented his paper to the Forum, following on from news that a licence had been granted to Wetherspoons at the new M40 Service area near Beaconsfield.

The point that the licence undermined current no alcohol policy of Motorway Service Areas (MSAs) was made, and issues around badging and signage of motorway service areas, motorists expectations around MSAs and alcohol and the complex rules around MSAs and newer service areas was discussed by members. David Quarmby pointed to a possible solution around providing guidance to local. It was noted that the AA were surveying members about their views on licensed premises on service areas at the moment. A group discussion was held around the issues raised by current rules and legislation, and recent developments. Christopher Macgowan outlined that similar discussions took place around changes to allow petrol retailers to sell alcohol. Patricia Hayes undertook to discuss these issues with the Home Office as part of their recent consultation on the Alcohol Strategy. The Chair committed to return to this in subsequent meetings **[ACTION: Chair/Secretariat]**.

Item 6 – Balance of Competencies

Andrew Ashbourne from International Cooperation gave a short presentation on the current Balance of Competencies exercise being held across Whitehall, and encouraged members to respond to the DfT's Call for Evidence, the deadline for which is 06th August. Members raised a number of points about how legislation had been applied in the past, and noted that where there had been multiple requests from different government departments that they would channel all feedback through DfT, who would be a conduit for all comments.

Item 7 – AOB

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be 02nd October.

Garrett Emmerson from TfL outlined a number of upcoming pieces of work for TfL that would be of interest for members, notably their report on the lane rental scheme, which had significantly reduced disruption and secured £50m worth of journey time savings and the TfL Roads Task Force Report due in July on the links and tensions between different calls on road use in the capital. The Chair raised whether this would be a useful item for the next meeting (**ACTION: Garrett Emmerson**). Garrett also highlighted that BBC 2 were screening a series looking at London's roads and their management in May, which gave a behind the scenes view of the work and various agencies involved in ensuring roads perform well and safely in the capital.

Paul O'Sullivan mentioned that a seminar on forecasting and modelling was taking place later in the week and that members may welcome an update on the plans for future modelling and forecasting. **[ACTION: Chair/Secretariat]**

Motorists Forum
12th June 2013