

Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain

Administrative Policy Guidance

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS' AND DEPUTY TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS' APPRAISAL SCHEME

This policy has no statutory basis and is issued with and is subject to the agreement of the Traffic Commissioner Board. Contents: Page Introduction 1 1 Objectives 1 **Principles** 2 Appraisal Criteria – skills and abilities 2 Outcomes 2 **Standards** Responsibility for Operation of the Scheme 2 - 3Scope 3 - 4**Annual Feedback** 4 - 5Appraisal Process and Procedure 5 - 7Dispute Resolution Process 7 7 - 8Use of the Appraisal information Annex A - Guide for Appraisers and Appraisees 9 - 11Annex B - Deputy / Traffic Commissioner Annual Feedback 12 - 15Annex C - Appraisal Form Part A - Self Appraisal Form 16 - 18Annex D - Appraisal Form Part B - Appraisal Form 19 - 24Annex E - Appraisal Form Part C - TC/DTC Self-Development Plan 25 Annex F - Record of STC/Appraisee Phone Call 26

Introduction

1. This document outlines the approach of the Traffic Commissioners' and Deputy Traffic Commissioners' Appraisal Scheme, what the Appraisal Scheme intends to achieve in terms of objectives and overall outcomes and how it will operate in order to achieve those objectives and outcomes. It relies heavily on the <u>Judicial Skills and Abilities Framework</u> (as periodically amended). It applies to all Traffic Commissioners (TCs) and deputy traffic commissioners (DTCs).

Objectives

- 2. The objectives of the scheme are:
 - a) To maintain the confidence of users and the public in the performance of TCs and DTCs by demonstrating a consistent and professional mechanism for appraisal and regular monitoring.
 - b) To establish and maintain standards and consistency of practice.
 - c) To ensure that TCs and DTCs acquire, maintain and demonstrate the appropriate qualities and abilities for effective and continued performance of their role.
 - d) To provide a practical framework for individual performance of the statutory functions to be assessed and measured so that they meet the defined standards as set out in the Statutory Guidance, Statutory Directions and Administrative Policies.
 - e) To identify individual training and development needs.
 - f) To provide training and development programmes informed by the identification of particular needs.
 - g) To create opportunities for TCs and DTCs to raise issues relating to procedures, training and their tribunal experience.
 - h) To provide a framework to gather and share feedback (i.e. best practice, barriers/issues for resolution) on all areas of the work of TCs and DTCs (i.e. its procedures, policies, governance etc.) and to use this feedback to help shape future developments in the TC & DTC regulatory regime.

Principles

- 3. The following underlying principles will underpin the development, implementation and execution of the Appraisal Scheme:
 - Openness, transparency, consensus, professionalism and fairness.
 - The maintenance of judicial independence.
 - Confidentiality.
 - A constructive and evidence-based assessment focused on the competence framework.
 - Timely support for TCs and DTCs in the performance of their role.
 - A non-interventionist approach by the appraiser during observation.

Appraisal Criteria – skills and abilities

- 4. Appraisal will be based on performance by reference to the Judicial Skills and Abilities Framework as updated in January 2025.
 - A. Legal and judicial skills
 - B. Communication skills and personal qualities
 - C. Effective working
 - D. Leadership skills (insofar as they relate to the individual TC function)

Outcomes

- 5. The following outcomes are expected as a result of the implementation of the Appraisal Scheme and they link directly to the objectives as defined above.
 - a) Users and colleagues will have confidence in the role of TCs and DTCs and in the part they play in the promotion of road safety and fair competition between operators.
 - b) Users and colleagues will have confidence that TCs and DTCs will offer a consistent approach to the regulatory regime and that they understand the different regulatory and tribunal roles.
 - c) The successful completion of consistent performance appraisals for all TCs and DTCs to ensure that they acquire and maintain the necessary competencies.
 - d) Following every appraisal, the subsequent completion (where appropriate) of an actionable self-development plan to address any identified needs (i.e. where expected levels of performance have not been adequately demonstrated or evidenced).
 - e) The collation of all feedback provided throughout the appraisal process, and the appropriate action taken with regard to that feedback to inform and shape future developments in the TC & DTC regulatory regime.

Standards

- 6. The scheme must identify outcome standards to reflect the level of competence attained.
- 7. The scheme identifies a threshold level of competence that lends itself to two outcome standards: "Satisfactory" and "Developmental needs identified".
- 8. The appraiser shall state the outcome standard at the conclusion of the appraisal.

Responsibility for Operation of the Scheme

9. The Senior Traffic Commissioner (STC) has overall responsibility for the effective operation and management of the appraisal scheme. Delivery of the appraisal scheme relies on DVSA allocating sufficient resources, as outlined in the Legal

Framework. Any concerns may be escalated to the Department for Transport by the STC.

- 10. The STC shall oversee the operation of the scheme with the aim to ensure:
 - consistency of the operation of the scheme,
 - that identified training needs are met in a timely and appropriate way,
 - that best practice is disseminated,
 - that a regular review (and where appropriate revision) of the scheme and its effectiveness is carried out,
 - a procedure is in place for resolving any disputes that might arise concerning appraisal.
- A member of staff at the Traffic Commissioner Corporate Office (TCCO) may carry out certain administrative functions in the operation of the scheme on behalf of the STC.
- 12. The STC will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all appraisal papers are kept confidential between the parties. Confidential papers associated with the scheme will be maintained in a locked cupboard in the STC's office or in a secure area on the Senior Traffic Commissioner's SharePoint site.

Scope

- 13. All TCs and DTCs will be appraised.
- 14. There is the expectation that TCs and DTCs will agree to a self-development plan, which links to self-assessment to promote continued improvement as well as deliver any specific training need.
- 15. TCs and the STC will be appraised by their peers. DTCs will be appraised by a TC.
- 16. All appraisers should have attended an appraisers' training session organised and delivered by a person recognised by the STC as competent. Appropriate and regular training will be provided to include:
 - a) how to assess performance against the competence framework;
 - b) how to encourage self-appraisal;
 - c) how to give constructive feedback;
 - d) how to write a comprehensive report; and
 - e) how to help the appraisee when necessary to produce an effective selfdevelopment plan.
- 17. All appraisers should undertake refresher training no less frequent than every four years.
- 18. All appraisers must themselves have been satisfactorily appraised and be committed to the principle of continuous personal and professional development.
- 19. All TCs and DTCs will be appraised on a three-year cycle, although there may be occasions when appraisal occurs within a shorter period, depending on sitting arrangements.

- 20. Newly appointed TCs and DTCs must be appraised after the first 12 months of conducting public inquiries and preliminary hearings.
- 21. The purpose and scope of the appraisal scheme will be communicated to all TCs and DTCs by the STC.
- 22. Where the annual feedback process has not been completed within 12 months of an appraisal, the appraiser will include it within the appraisal process.

Annual Feedback

- 23. Feedback is information you give another person about how well you think they are performing in their role or about the impact of their behaviour. Its aim is to help the receiver learn more about themselves and the effect of their behaviour on others. The importance of routine feedback to those exercising judicial functions has been repeatedly emphasised in publications such as the Equal Treatment Bench Book, which place the onus on judges to request feedback about what works well and what might be improved. Feedback can provide validation, identify learning needs and offer options for future behaviour.
- 24. The appraisal scheme specifically refers to gathering and sharing feedback on all areas of the work of TCs and DTCs. The principles of the scheme require an evidence-based assessment. Information which might be retained to support appraisal discussions include:
 - examples of reports, communications or written work such as submissions, emails or written decisions
 - self-development plans
 - feedback from others such as OTC managers
 - management information/statistics e.g. data, budgetary information, etc.
- 25. As feedback can inform the appraisal process it should be recorded, dated and filed with the Traffic Commissioner Corporate Office so that it can then be considered as part of the appraisal process.
- 26. The scheme is based on peer appraisal and mainly through observation. However, some elements of the appraisal scheme cannot be assessed in detail during an observed sitting. For example the competencies which are required as part of the wider role such as engagement with others to deliver regulatory functions, values diversity and shows empathy and sensitivity in building relationships, awareness of the diversity of the communities which the tribunal serves, works constructively with others to encourage co-operation and collaboration when needed etc, and in particular application of the Regulators' Code. In those circumstances it is necessary to also rely on feedback.
- 27. TCs and DTCs often receive constructive feedback, which may provide comments to support continuous improvement. That feedback may also record good performance, which should, as a matter of fairness, inform the appraisal process but may also provide useful affirmation to an individual commissioner.
- 28. General housekeeping issues might also arise, for example: diary management issues making it difficult for people who arrange listings; or delays in supplying

dates or written decisions, cancellations with limited notice; delays in submitting claim forms; or general issues of productivity. Where such issues arise it is right to give the TC or DTC opportunity to resolve them before the next appraisal. All TCs and DTCs are required to ensure that public finances are used effectively. The Statutory Guidance expects TCs and DTCs to actively manage cases, whilst ensuring that they are dealt with justly and expeditiously and in ways which are proportionate to the size and type of licence/s involved; the nature and scale of the breaches; the complexity of the issues; the likely orders and directions to be made; the likely effect upon the operator of the proposed orders and directions, thereby ensuring value for money in the use of time and resources.

- 29. The appraisal process will be supported by an annual feedback discussion that is expected to last a maximum of two hours. The STC (or nominee) will engage with full-time TCs, and the TC Board will agree who will carry out each DTC appraisal. The only exception to this is where the annual feedback is included within a three-year appraisal. They should take place on a day when a DTC is due to sit. Part of the exercise will require the TC or DTC to give examples of what they have done in an active manner to seek feedback from others including their performance and handling of cases and to seek the perceptions of others on collegiate working.
- 30. The discussion will cover the competencies contained in the Feedback Form at Annex B as well as providing opportunity to deliver feedback on performance. This will provide a structured and recorded discussion between TCs/DTCs. The feedback will be focused on behaviours rather than personality traits and will include a discussion on feedback about the TC/DTC and observations from peers, staff, and professional tribunal users. The appraisal scheme refers to evidence, which includes not only the observation of the hearings themselves but also observation of the appraisee for instance engaging with others such as members of staff and colleagues. Any management information to be discussed during the appraisal or annual feedback will be shared with the appraisee in advance. This may include, for example, details about the number of outstanding decisions and availability for sittings.
- 31. The TC conducting the feedback discussion will seek feedback from the OTC Hearing Centre Manager on any matters of concern or of praise. Any evaluations are best made against established criteria, such as the Statutory Documents or Administrative Policy Guidance. Whenever feedback is given on specific incidents then it is appropriate to seek the relevant TC/DTC's views on how the situation might be approached differently in future.
- 32. As indicated the annual feedback discussions will be noted and the notes will be made available to the TC or DTC and copied to STC. The appraiser will be supplied with these notes as part of the appraisal documentation.

Appraisal Process and Procedure

33. The TCCO will notify the appraiser and appraisee of when the appraisals are due by email together with the appropriate forms. The appraiser and appraisee will fix a mutually convenient date for the appraisal and this should normally take place within 8-12 weeks of the notification, subject to a justifiable reason for a delay.

- 34. The appraisee must complete a self-assessment form and send it to the appraiser at least seven days prior to the observation together with a maximum of four recent written judgements. The self-assessment form will be attached to the appraisal report form (see Annexes Three and Four).
- 35. Both the appraiser and appraisee may refer to the previous appraisal (where available) upon request. If the STC considers it desirable for both parties to be provided with a copy of the previous appraisal, the STC will ensure that copies are provided within at least seven days of the appraisal date.
- 36. The appraiser should ensure that he/she has contacted the appraisee in good time to arrange a mutually convenient appraisal date and location. The relevant OTC STL should also be advised so that arrangements can be made for duplicate briefs to be prepared and any other arrangement required. The OTC will ensure that a copy of the public inquiry or driver conduct hearing brief is provided for the appraiser at least seven days before the hearing date
- 37. The appraiser and appraisee should arrive at the hearing at least one hour before the start time of the public inquiry or driver conduct hearing to enable a preappraisal discussion to take place. The OTC listing officer should make every effort to ensure that cases are listed to start at a time appropriate to include this meeting.
- 38. The appraiser will observe the pre-hearing preparation as well as the actual hearing and may retire with the appraisee during the proceedings.
- 39. At the end of the proceedings, or, if this is not possible, on a mutually convenient future date, the appraiser must have a face-to-face discussion with the appraisee about his or her performance. The use of video conferencing technology is acceptable. This should occur within seven days of the observation, if at all possible.
- 40. It is anticipated that observation for one working day will be sufficient for the appraisal to take place but if either the appraiser or appraisee request that a further day's hearing is observed then this request shall be accommodated. This will ensure that all of the competences are observed and will also allow for exceptional circumstances arising during the first day's observation.
- 41. Feedback from the appraiser should relate to the competences and must be evidence based. It is to be noted that evidence includes not only the observation of the hearings themselves but also observation of the appraisee engaging with others such as members of OTC or DVSA staff.
- 42. It is desirable that the appraiser completes the appraisal form in the presence of the appraisee, that there is mutually beneficial discussion, that any self-development plan is agreed and that the form is then signed by both parties.
- 43. However, there may be limited circumstances where this is not possible and in such cases the appraiser will complete the appraisal form within 14 days of the appraisal and will send a copy to the appraisee marked "Strictly Private and Confidential". The appraisee will then have 14 days to respond with a self-development plan where required.

- 44. The agreed and signed forms and any self-development plan should then be sent to the STC no later than 14 days after completion of the forms marked "Strictly Private and Confidential".
- 45. It is preferable for the forms to be typed rather than handwritten.

Dispute Resolution Process

- 46. In the event that the appraiser concludes that the appraisal process cannot continue the matter shall be referred to the STC. The appraiser shall specify the reasons for the cessation of the appraisal and the STC shall either specify that the appraisal must continue, or may appoint a new appraiser.
- 47. In the event that the appraisee concludes that the appraisal process cannot continue the matter shall be referred to the STC. The appraisee shall specify the reasons for the cessation of the appraisal and the STC shall either specify that the appraisal must continue, or may appoint a new appraiser. Where either party is the STC the matter shall be referred to the TC with the most seniority outside of the process.
- 48. In the event that the findings of the appraiser are not agreed by the appraisee the matter is to be referred to the STC.
- 49. After consultation with both the appraiser and appraisee the STC can confirm or amend the outcome of the original appraisal or, if the STC considers that there should be another appraisal appoint another appraiser to conduct a fresh appraisal.
- 50. In the event that the appraiser concludes that the appraisee might be unable, unfit or unwilling to continue to serve as a TC or DTC or has very serious concerns about the conduct and/or personal welfare of the appraisee that fact is to be referred to the STC. The STC will then consider all of the matters referred to in the appraisal and may then notify the Department for Transport of the matters that are of concern but will not disclose the appraisal documents. The STC will discuss the findings of the appraiser with the appraisee and may also notify the Department for Transport of matters of concern. Such notification must not be made without the knowledge of the appraisee and a copy of the correspondence to the Department for Transport shall be provided to the appraisee.

Use of the Appraisal information

- 51. The appraisal forms, including the self-development plans and any other documentation will be kept by the STC in the personal files of the TCs and DTCs (see Annexes One to Six).
- 52. Subject to the dispute resolution process set out above, the appraisal report and any accompanying self-development plan will be confidential. It will carry an Official Sensitive marking and access will be limited to the STC, appraiser, appraisee and the relevant staff within TCCO, unless requested by the personnel arrangement in the Department for Transport.
- 53. Notwithstanding the above the appraisee may give their consent for their appraisal to be disclosed to a third party.

- 54. The TCCO will contact each TC and DTC to confirm receipt of the completed appraisal forms and any self-development plan and will speak with them if any action points arise so they are dealt with in a timely manner and also to provide pastoral care and support to the relevant TC or DTC where appropriate. It is anticipated that this will be a positive and informal process and that it will promote self-development and facilitate continued professional development. A summary note of the discussion will be made by the STC (see Annex F).
- 55. The STC may use the information contained in the appraisal forms for the purposes of providing references if the appraisee consents.
- 56. The STC may identify common themes emerging as a whole from the appraisal process and in that event may choose to identify those common themes to all TCs & DTCs so as to facilitate discussion and development for the benefit of all TCs & DTCs.
- 57. In addition, the STC may use general themes arising out of the appraisal scheme for the purposes of planning either specific training programmes or for inclusion in the Annual Professional Development Seminar.

ANNEX A - TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS' APPRAISAL SCHEME GUIDE FOR APPRAISERS AND APPRAISEES

1. Statutory Functions

The jurisdiction of traffic commissioners (TCs/DTCs) includes considering and granting applications for goods and PSV operators' licences, considering and taking regulatory action against those licences including making orders for curtailment, suspension, revocation and personal disqualification of operators and directors and taking regulatory action against nominated transport managers. TCs and DTCs also consider the conduct of drivers who hold or apply for licences to drive large goods and passenger carrying vehicles. TCs and DTCs also consider and take regulatory action against those PSV operators who fail to operate local bus services in accordance with the registered particulars of the timetables. This action can include the imposition of financial and other penalties and/or the restriction of current and/or future registrations. TCs and DTCs determine appeals against the impounding of unauthorised vehicles that are impounded by DVSA.

TCs and DTCs also determine whether proposed or existing operating centres (the place where the vehicles are normally kept) are or remain suitable to be specified on operators' licences.

The TC for Scotland also has statutory powers to consider appeals by taxi operators against fare scales fixed or reviewed by Scottish licensing authorities and is also empowered under the Road Traffic Act 1991 to appoint adjudicators to consider appeals against penalty charge notices issued in respect of improperly parked vehicles in Scottish local authority areas where parking offences have been decriminalised.

The role of TC and DTC is both as a regulator, in which role they must have proper regard to the Regulator's Code¹, and as a specialist tribunal. These roles are explained in the Legal Framework document². In fulfilling their statutory functions all TCs (including DTCs) are expected to have regard to the STC's Statutory Guidance and to follow the STC's Statutory Directions. In addition, administrative guidance has been issued with consent which provides a starting point for TC and DTC conduct. It is therefore right that consideration shall be given to the appraisee's compliance with the STC's Statutory Guidance and Statutory Directions and administrative guidance.

The appraisal scheme has been developed to encompass the wide ranging regulatory role of TCs and DTCs in and out of the Inquiry room. It takes into account the work necessary to fulfil the role and links objectives to those competencies.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-document-for-the-traffic-commissioners-and-department-for-transport-including-its-agencies

2. Competencies specific to the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commissioners

The following are based on the JSB skills and abilities but must be assessed with regard to the Statutory Functions, as summarised above.

A. Legal and judicial skills

- Possesses intellectual ability and analytical skills to the standard required for the TC/DTC role, including interpreting complex regulatory frameworks, assessing evidence, and applying legal principles to operator licensing and driver conduct cases.
- Demonstrates legal, skills knowledge and regulatory expertise to the standard required, including familiarity with the Statutory Guidance and Directions, the Regulators' Code, and relevant case law affecting goods and passenger vehicle operations.
- Is able and willing to invest time in developing and maintaining skills and knowledge as appropriate, maintaining and enhancing knowledge of transport regulation, tribunal procedure, and evolving statutory responsibilities.
- Shows flexibility of approach: can apply skills and knowledge in unfamiliar or developing areas, as appropriate, such as emerging transport technologies or changes in statutory frameworks.
- Clearly understands what is required for a fair hearing, ensuring procedural fairness, impartiality, and appropriate engagement with all parties, including unrepresented operators and drivers.
- Assimilates and organises pertinent information quickly, identifying key facts, legal issues, and procedural considerations in preparation for and during hearings.
- Identifies with clarity relevant issues of fact and law for decision, focusing on material matters and avoiding distraction by irrelevant detail.
- Reaches clearly reasoned, logical and concise decisions that weigh up relevant considerations, demonstrating an ability to balance competing considerations and articulate findings in a concise and structured manner.
- Demonstrates sound judgement and an appropriate level of decisiveness, particularly in regulatory decision-making and case management.

B. Communication skills and personal qualities

- Shows effective active listening skills, seeking to understand a party's case without prejudgement and with courtesy, sensitivity and appropriate patience, when engaging with operators, transport managers, legal representatives, and unrepresented parties, without prejudgement.
- Demonstrates clear oral and written communication skills, in language appropriate for the forum and the particular circumstances, including those unfamiliar with legal or regulatory terminology.
- Adopts an appropriately authoritative approach that:
 - inspires respect and confidence in the tribunal process;
 - ensures both fairness, allowing proper participation by the parties, and an appropriate and efficient use of judicial resources.
- Adheres to the Bangalore Principles of independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety and equality of treatment, appreciating the importance of high standards of conduct and of maintaining public trust in the Traffic Commissioner jurisdiction.

- Possesses sufficient resilience for the role and an ability to remain calm in challenging situations, including during contentious hearings or when managing difficult behaviours.
- Has a practical, common sense approach to problem-solving, particularly in case management, procedural decisions, and resolving evidential issues.
- Shows open-mindedness and self-awareness, reflecting on feedback, recognising the impact of their conduct on others, and adapting their approach where appropriate.

C. Effective working

- Is diligent and efficient, prioritising tasks appropriately and reaching timely, well-reasoned decisions in line with statutory expectations and tribunal responsibilities.
- Team work: has a collegiate approach; builds effective working relationships with colleagues, and the Office of the Traffic Commissioner (OTC) staff, fostering a constructive and respectful working environment.
- Takes an inclusive approach to those with differences from themselves, recognising and valuing differences in background, experience, and perspective.
- Is able and willing to challenge inappropriate behaviour by others, whether observed in hearings, among colleagues, or in interactions with stakeholders, and does so in a professional and proportionate manner.
- Uses or can develop digital skills to the requisite standard, including the
 effective use of case management systems, digital hearing platforms, and
 electronic document handling.

D. Leadership skills

- Build and maintain an effective and efficient judicial team, fostering collaboration across the Traffic Commissioner bench and with the OTC.
- Lead by example, motivating others to perform at their best, modelling professionalism, fairness, and high standards of conduct and reinforce public confidence in the regulatory regime.
- Ensure an inclusive culture for all, irrespective of background, ensuring that all colleagues and stakeholders are treated equitably.
- Encourage and support the professional development of other commissioners, identifying opportunities for learning, mentoring, and knowledge sharing.
- Have proper regard to the wellbeing of others, including colleagues and tribunal users, by promoting a supportive and balanced working environment.
- Where appropriate, identify and shape strategic objectives and standards, helping to shape the direction of the Traffic Commissioner function in line with statutory responsibilities and public expectations.
- Implement, and where appropriate instigate, changes to improve efficiency and performance, including case management, hearing practices, and stakeholder engagement.
- Work collaboratively with others, including colleagues, OTC staff, and external stakeholders, maintaining constructive relationships that support the delivery of fair, consistent, and proportionate regulation.

ANNEX B



DEPUTY / TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK FORM

(To be sent by post or email, when completed, to the Senior Traffic Commissioner)

D/TC, subject of feedback:			
Data of foodback discussion:			
Date of feedback discussion:			
Legal and judicial skills: encompasses the ability to interpret complex legal and regulatory frameworks, apply sound legal reasoning, and make fair, well-structured decisions. The competency requires strong analytical skills, up-to-date knowledge of relevant laws and guidance, and a commitment to continuous learning. Individuals must demonstrate flexibility in adapting to new legal developments, ensure procedural fairness, especially for unrepresented parties, and show decisiveness and sound judgement in case management. Effective preparation, clarity in identifying key issues, and the ability to balance competing considerations are also essential.			
Discussions under this competency may:			
 explore the approach taken to a recent complex case or unfamiliar legal issue, including how legal principles and regulatory frameworks were interpreted and applied; consider how the TC/DTC maintains and updates their legal knowledge, including any recent learning activities or areas where further support would be helpful; identify areas for future development, such as: increasing confidence in applying the Statutory Guidance and Directions; enhancing familiarity with evolving case law or tribunal procedures; developing strategies for managing large volumes of evidence or complex factual scenarios. 			

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Communication skills and personal qualities: highlights the importance of clear, respectful, and effective communication in both oral and written forms, tailored to the needs of diverse audiences including unrepresented parties. The competency emphasises active listening, patience, and sensitivity, alongside the ability to inspire confidence and maintain fairness in proceedings. TCs and DTCs are expected to uphold high standards of conduct in line with the Bangalore Principles, demonstrating resilience, calmness under pressure, and a practical, common-sense approach to problem-solving. Self-awareness, openness to feedback, and a willingness to adapt behaviour to maintain public trust and effective tribunal functioning are also key attributes.

Discussions under this competency may:

- explore how the TC/DTC engages with parties during hearings, such as how they adapt their communication style for unrepresented parties or those unfamiliar with legal terminology;
- consider how the TC/DTC demonstrates authority and fairness, balancing assertiveness with approachability to maintain control of proceedings while encouraging participation and ensuring efficient use of time and resources without compromising procedural fairness;
- identify areas for future development, such as:
 - o improving clarity or accessibility in written decisions:
 - managing challenging behaviours or emotionally charged situations with greater confidence.

<u>Effective working:</u> highlights the importance of professionalism, collaboration, and adaptability in the TC/DTC role. The competency reflects a commitment to working efficiently and diligently, making timely and well-reasoned decisions in line with statutory duties. It values a collegiate and respectful approach to teamwork, particularly in building constructive relationships with colleagues and OTC staff. Inclusivity is key, recognising and valuing diverse perspectives and experiences, alongside the courage to challenge inappropriate behaviour in a proportionate and professional manner. It also includes the ability to use or develop digital skills to meet the demands of modern case management and tribunal operations.

Discussions under this competency may:

- explore how the TC/DTC manages their workload and decision-making and how they prioritise tasks and ensure decisions are timely and well-reasoned;
- consider how the TC/DTC contributes to a positive working environment and how they collaborate with colleagues and OTC staff;
- identify areas for future development, such as:
 - improving digital confidence or proficiency with case management systems and hearing platforms;
 strengthening time management or streamlining case preparation
- processes.

General housekeeping:

Discussions about general housekeeping may consider:

- Is communication with the OTC prompt and reliable, particularly in relation to providing dates of availability and submitting claims in line with OTC procedures?
- Are cases prepared in a timely and thorough manner, with any foreseeable issues flagged to the OTC in advance?
- Is there a constructive and respectful rapport with OTC staff and colleagues?
- Is the volume and quality of caseload and box work satisfactory and in line with expectations?

Suggested areas of development:	
Comments from Feedback Subject:	

15

Version: 5.0

Commencement: September 2025

ANNEX C

Data Protection Act 2018: The Traffic Commissioners' Corporate Office will process personal data in this form within the provisions of the Act. You have a right to ask for a copy of the data and to ask for any inaccuracies to be corrected.



Name:

TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER/DEPUTY TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER APPRAISAL FORM

PART A - APPRAISAL SELF ASSESSMENT FORM

(To be lodged with the appraiser at least 7 days before the appraisal date.)

Date of appointment:
Appraiser:
Date of Appraisal:
Date of previous appraisal:
In order that you may prepare for the appraisal visit and to enable an effective discussion with your appraiser, please complete the details above and the following form. (Please make any additional comments on the back of this form.) 1) What were the objectives identified, if any, in your last appraisal? In your view have these been achieved?
16

2)	last appraisal in this tribunal? Has the training assisted you in your role as a TC/DTC?
3)	With reference to the Statutory Functions and the Competencies set out above, what do you consider to be the most effective aspects of your performance as a TC/DTC?
4)	With reference to the Statutory Functions and the Competencies set out above, what aspects of your performance do you consider would most benefit from further development?
5)	Are there any administrative or procedural matters that could be changed to assist you in the improvement of your performance as a TC/DTC?

6) Is there any training or additional support that you consider would enhance you performance as a TC/DTC?
7) Do you have any special needs that are not curently being met by the Office o the Traffic Commissioner or the Department for Transport?
Are there any additional comments that you would like to make or issues that you would like to discuss in the appraisal?
Signed:
Date:

ANNEX D



TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER/DEPUTY TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER APPRAISAL FORM

PART B - APPRAISAL FORM

(To be sent by post or email, when completed, to the Traffic Commissioners' Corporate Office)

Appraisee:
Appraiser:
Date(s) of appraisal:
Summary of type of cases observed

comment on decision-writing skills
Summary of appeal cases reviewed at the appraisal (both dismissed and allowed)
Summary of work undertaken outside the Public Inquiry room

Commencement: September 2025

Version: 5.0

Competence Framework & Performance Indicators

Complete each box with reference to the specific competencies as set out above.

- Identify clearly the evidence that comment is based upon.
- Identify competencies that cannot be assessed.
- Identify the appraisee's strengths.
- Identify areas where the appraisee would benefit from development.

A. Legal and judicial skills

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Summary of the appraisee's strengths
Summary of areas where the appraisee would benefit from development.
Suggested areas of development (e.g. attendance at training events, TC or judicial ob shadowing, further guidance from a mentor to support self-development)

23

Version: 5.0

Commencement: September 2025

CONCLUSION
SATISFACTORY/DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IDENTIFIED – delete as appropriate
I confirm that I have received a copy of the completed Annex Four.
Do you wish to make any further observations on the appraisal.
Signed (Appraisee):

ANNEX E

If all or some of the outcomes are not met, a Self-Development Plan should be completed and attached to the appraisal report form and sent to the Senior Traffic Commissioner.

PART C

TC/DTC SELF-DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Appraisee:
Administrative Traffic Area(s):
Date of appointment:
Appraiser:
Date(s) of appraisal:
Please identify below agreed training or other self-development needs discussed at the appraisal that relate to the relevant competence(s).
Please expand the box as necessary or identify additional needs on the back of this form.
 Skill and ability Skill and ability Skill and ability
Signed (Appraiser): Date:
Signed (Appraisee):
Date:

ANNEX F

Record of discussions (face to face or by telephone) between appraisee and STC following on from the appraisal		