

Van Policy Working Group Minutes

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 10:30 – 13:00

Sciensus, 107 Station Street, Burton on Trent DE14 1SZ

1. WELCOME, MEETING CONDUCT, COMPETITION LAW COMPLIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was chaired by James Adcroft (JA), who welcomed members and colleagues from Logistics UK and thanked Ross Baxter for kindly hosting the group at Sciensus' offices in Burton on Trent.

- Members were reminded by Denise Beedell (DB), about the competition law compliance guidance and referred members to the full details on page 2 of the Meeting Papers.

2. MINUTES, NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

- The minutes were approved by the Van Policy Working Group (VPWG) members.
- There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. VAN MANUFACTURER'S UPDATE

Ian Dunn, Strategic Development Manager at Logistics UK updated members on recent van manufacturer developments including:

- Maxus are pushing retail sales, rather than fleet.
- Ford are challenging government about infrastructure issues.
- New market entrant First Hydrogen are producing hydrogen fuel cell vehicles for the UK market.

Members raised areas of concern including:

- Likely range of EVs
- Towing and payload capacities
- Battery healthcare – reports of chargeable capacity loss of up to 30% over 12 months
- Cold weather impacts on mileage.
- Sourcing hydrogen
- eVans parked up for 4 or 5 days lose charge
- Power assistance for auxiliary equipment

4. BRIDGE STRIKES BY VANS

Phil Lloyd, Head of Engineering Policy at Logistic UK, gave a presentation and discussed reports from National Highways about increasing incidence of bridge strikes by vans. Discussions covered:

- Bridge Strike Prevention Group – run by National Rail. Focus on trucks and buses, but emerging trend for vans to hit bridges.
- 100-150 incidents seen in previous years, now up to 250 per annum.
- Tends to happen at smaller bridges, possibly due to vans getting taller.
- Less impact than HGVs, but bridges involved are often older and there can be a knock-on effect.
- Considering some toolbox guidance.

Members' comments included:

- Some members have addressed this through use of markers on lifts to remind drivers.
- Issue with use of imperial and metric measurements on signage, particularly for younger drivers.
- Increase may be due to move to increased van use.
- Ross Baxter provided examples of stickers Sciensus have developed for use on their vans and also inhouse videos to support training.

ACTION: Ross Baxter to send through signage to DB for circulation to members.

ACTION: Phil Lloyd will engage with SMMT for ways this could be addressed production line process changes.

5. ELECTRIC VEHICLE OPERATING COSTS IN THE MANAGER'S GUIDE

DB flagged the request for feedback on the inclusion of electric vehicle operating costs in the Manager's Guide to Distribution Costs 2023, considering the questions posed to contributors on what information is

appropriate on page nine of the papers. The questions covered correct measurements, operating costs and replacement costs.

ACTION: Members to consider questions starting on page 9 of the papers pack and submit responses to DB by 28 February.

6. **EXTERNAL SPEAKER: TRANSPORT FOR WEST MIDLANDS**

Andrew Page, Future Mobility Lead at Transport for West Midlands provided an overview of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Electric Vehicle Charging Area Transit Stations (EV CATS). His presentation covered:

- Development of the scheme – delivered with joint venture delivery company on a 20-year lease.
- Part funded by central Government.
- The stations will provide ultra-rapid charging stations of over 150kw charging.
- 10 facilities, focused on commercial operators but may also be used by local residents.
- Scale of charging network needs to increase to achieve volume of chargepoint infrastructure needed for use by commercial vehicles.
- Expect first site online mid to late 2024 with others developed over following two years.
- Internal energy team is working with National Grid to ensure sufficient connection and power.

ACTION: DB to circulate TfWM slides.

7. **EV REPORT 2023**

Members were appraised of the initial findings of research undertaken in December 2022 and January 2023 for the planned Electric Vehicle Report to be published in late spring. Members were content with the headline findings listed on page 11 of the papers and confirmed the findings about the important of infrastructure. Members also referenced the public sector buying deadlines and that future proofing of charging infrastructure was also vital.

8. **MOT UPDATES AND CHANGES CONSULTATION**

Members discussed the Department for Transport's (DfT) consultation seeking views on changes to MOTs in Great Britain. The following input was provided:

- Members are unhappy about vehicles not being inspected for 4 years.
- Uncertainty about how the mileage proposal would be policed.
- First year pass rates can be distorted. Newer cars tend to be better maintained.
- The Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness is looking to increase inspections.

9. **VAN AND UK POLICY UPDATE**

Members were updates on relevant Logistics UK policy activities and other matters referring members to pages 14 -17 and the annexes starting on page 19 of the meeting papers.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Van Maintenance Good Practice Guide** - PL gave members a brief update.

ACTION: Members to feed-back comment to Phil Lloyd on plloyd@logistics.org.uk

- **Forthcoming Events** - DB flagged the Vans Today 2023 event on 27 April being held at Leicester City Football Club and the Member Briefing in March.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 13 June, 10:30 – 13:00 via Teams

Tuesday 12 September, 10:30 – 13:00 – Format TBC

Meeting concluded at 13:00

ATTENDEES

Chair

James Adcroft

Tesco

Members

Ross Baxter

Sciensus

Matthew Chappell

Royal Mail

Richard Crook

DHL Express

Julie Davies

Amey

Kellie Davis

Kinto

Chris Georgiou

Currys Group Ltd

Colin James

DPD

Gary Leedham-Hawkes

Calor Gas

Dan Martin

Bott Ltd

Stephen Turner

Bott Ltd

Logistics UK Staff

Denise Beedell (Secretary)

Public Policy Manager

Ian Dunn

Strategic Development Manager

Eric Higham

Senior Contract Manager – Vehicle Inspection Service

Phil Lloyd

Head of Engineering Policy

Phil Roe

President (joined via Teams)