

# **Motorists Forum**

## ***Minutes of meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012***

### **Attendees:**

David Quarmby (Chair)	RAC Foundation
Paul Watters	AA
Paul Taylor	ACPO
Christopher Macgowan	Centre for Automotive Management
Garrett Emmerson	TfL
Nick Starling	ABI
Theo de Pencier	FTA
John Lewis	BVRLA
Robert Gifford	PACTS
Graham Dalton	Highways Agency
Tricia Hayes	DfT
Paul O'Sullivan	DfT

### **Apologies:**

Edmund King  
DCC Suzette  
Davenport  
C/Supt David Snelling  
Stephen Joseph  
Paul Everitt

### **1. Introduction**

David Quarmby welcomed the Forum, and conveyed apologies from Edmund King, Paul Everitt, Stephen Joseph and David Snelling.

### **2. DfT Oral Update**

Tricia Hayes updated the Forum on recent developments including:

- The potential tanker drivers strike
- The recent publication of the Pothole Review
- Continued work on speed limits

Tricia Hayes also asked for views on recent press coverage on proposals on drug driving, which she felt had misrepresented the government's proposals. Rob Gifford, who had been quoted in the piece, said he felt that the story was oddly-focused. He commented that his own organisation felt that drink-driving and speeding were still the main risks to road safety.

### **3. Roads Reform & Cook Review**

Paul O'Sullivan outlined the reform process that was going ahead following the dual prompts of the Cook Review and the Prime Minister's recent speech on infrastructure.

He explained that three broad packages of work were in train:

- A response to Cook would be published in the near future.
- As part of the response to Cook, the Department would begin work on a roads strategy setting out long-term aims for the network.
- In parallel with this, his team would also be working on the feasibility study into ownership and financing options for the national road network announced by the Prime Minister in March.

The Forum discussed the different topics that this work would touch upon, including geographical scope, interfaces, tolling, regional balance and traffic forecasts. Paul reiterated the Prime Minister's commitment that this would not see the introduction of road pricing in the UK, but was about making best use of the money already paid by the motorist.

Reference was also made to the substantial body of preceding work, including that carried out some time ago as part of the Eddington study.

Paul O'Sullivan said that he had already spoken with some members of the Forum, and that some had been involved directly at the Prime Minister's speech. He intended to make full use of expertise outside of the Department, and in particular to set up an expert group to discuss elements of the Strategy. The Chair noted the emphasis that the Prime Minister was placing on roads investment, and said he knew that many members of the Forum would be eager to help in driving this work forward – either individually or in the context of an expert group. The DfT noted they would be keen to discuss this both with the forum and with individual members.

#### **4. Olympic Traffic Management**

Graham Dalton explained the measures that the Highways Agency was taking in preparation for the Olympics. Graham noted the importance of strong links with other organisations during the Games themselves and the steps taken to build these links, and particularly noted the links between the HA and TfL.

John Lewis asked whether this preparation was removing resources from other parts of the network. Graham Dalton confirmed that there would be no diversion of operational resource; rather it was a focus for the planning and operational management resources. Most of the country would have similar service to a normal summer.

The chair congratulated the HA and TfL for the evidence of their close cooperation in the run-up to the Games.

#### **5. Insurance and younger drivers**

Nick Starling began the discussion on insurance issues, noting the impetus following the summit at Downing Street earlier in the year. He said he was pleased at the way government was taking action on personal injury claims and whiplash, and noted the steps the insurance industry was taking on fraud. He said that the key issue for insurers was now young drivers.

Rob Gifford noted that young driver accidents were actually down in recent years by more than other drivers and that DfT and DSA were both making efforts to improve young driver safety. A DfT policy official, responding for the Department, noted that the key element here was young drivers' lack of experience, and that graduated licensing did not necessarily resolve this. She felt that developments in telematics were highly encouraging, providing a

much more direct route to assess this side of young driver risk and incentivise safer driving. She also noted that the Department was taking several steps to improve training and testing – recent reforms to bring in independent driving in the test and remove prior access to the bank of theory test questions; as well as the introduction of the first national driver training standards.

Nick Starling repeated his concern, and the Chair suggested a need for further analysis and evidence on what was going on and what had been achieved so far. DfT agreed to provide further information for a discussion at the next meeting of the Forum, to which they would invite representatives from DSA.

## **6. Garage Customer Experience**

Christopher Macgowan updated the Forum on the progress of the sub-group dealing with the Garage Customer Experience. He outlined the key aims of the sub-group, explaining that the remit of the reform programme had widened and become more focused on customer experience now that there were no longer plans to change the frequency of testing. The MOT Trade Forum had been commissioned to help with delivery.

The first meeting of the sub-group would be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and the overall work was expected to conclude in the Autumn. Christopher Macgowan agreed to update the Forum at its next meeting.

## **7. Other Business**

Paul Taylor updated the group on the progress of a study into road safety at work, jointly funded by ACPO and the Metropolitan Police. The aim of the study is to identify best practice, with an aim to reducing incidents and fatalities.

***Motorists Forum  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2012***