

# **Motorists Forum**

## ***Minutes of meeting 2nd February 2012***

### **Attendees:**

David Quarmby (Chair)	RAC Foundation
Edmund King	AA
C/Supt David Snelling	ACPO
Christopher Macgowan	Centre for Automotive Management
Stephen Joseph	CBT
Garrett Emmerson	TfL
Nick Starling	ABI (items 1-3)
Theo de Pencier	FTA
Rob Gifford	PACTS
Paul Everitt	SMMT (items 4-7)
Graham Dalton	Highways Agency
Tricia Hayes	DfT

### **Apologies:**

DCC Suzette  
Davenport  
John Lewis

## **1. Introduction**

David Quarmby welcomed the Forum, and conveyed apologies from John Lewis.

The Chair asked to further clarify the situation around parking enforcement (raised under item 2 of the November agenda). Tricia Hayes said that the Department was aware of these concerns, and noted that the Department was watching the situation in Scotland carefully. There would be close monitoring of the new regime.

### **1.a) Pay-As-You-Go insurance**

The Chair agreed to take an item of any other business before the DfT oral update, on pay-as-you-go insurance. Stephen Joseph noted that PAYG insurance was now in successful operation for a large number of motorists. Members of the Forum agreed with this, and noted examples of success from their own areas.

## **2. DfT Oral Update**

Tricia Hayes outlined major developments for the Department in recent months:

- Guidance to local authorities considering introducing lane rental for utility street works has been published.
- Proposed new arrangements for street works permit schemes have also been published for consultation, which would remove the need for central government approval for new schemes.
- Earlier in the week, new proposals were announced for consultation to change advertising requirements on traffic orders, expecting to save local authorities and the Highways Agency £16m a year.

- Implementation of the Red Tape Challenge continues, including through the proposed TRO reforms and a suite of measures to reduce the paperwork burden on motorists.
- Analytical work continues on changes to the speed limit.

She also offered to circulate a separate briefing note on the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme.

A DfT official outlined recent reforms on roads classification, with local authorities getting greater control over the status of their roads and simpler processes for making changes to the primary route network.

### **3. Spending Review**

Tricia Hayes outlined the outcomes of the Spending Review. She drew attention to the impact of an additional billion pounds of spending on roads, and in particular to the new pinch-point fund. Graham Dalton noted that work was already underway planning for what the pinch-point fund could deliver in the next two financial years. He said that the Highways Agency was working to determine how far the fund could go in supporting growth and development, as well as congestion reduction.

Several members of the Forum supported the Chair's appreciation for how the Department had secured additional funding in the current climate.

Mention was made of the consultation period just closed for those wishing to contribute to the A14 Challenge. Stephen Joseph welcomed the approach that was being taken on the A14 on behalf of CBT, in particular the focus on delivering a solution for the whole corridor.

### **4. MOT Review / Garage Customer Experience**

A DfT official introduced the topic, unpacking the announcement that the Secretary of State had made earlier that day. The focus of work would be to ensure that the motorist felt confident about the MOT test, by ensuring the work added value and gave them the security of knowing their vehicle was in a fit and proper condition.

As part of the Secretary of State's announcement, the Forum had been identified as one of the organisations that would be asked to help the development of new measures to test satisfaction with the garage sector. The Chair had separately invited Christopher Macgowan to form a sub-group of the Forum to deal with this issue.

The Chair formally asked that Christopher Macgowan begin setting up a sub-group of the Forum to deal with the issues raised by the Garage Customer Experience announcement. In particular, he asked him to define the terms of reference, membership and timescales for the group's work.

## **5. Cook Review and Roads Strategy**

Tricia Hayes, noting the forthcoming response to the Cook Review asked the Forum's views was on some of the longer term strategic issues raised. To explain further, a DfT analyst gave a short presentation on strategic questions in forecasting.

Members of the Forum discussed the expected future trends in road transport. A variety of different positions were noted, ranging from firm exponents of the 'peak car' hypothesis to those predictions based on observed trends. The Department noted the wide range of theories, and noted that its work would be taking these into account. Tricia Hayes offered a further session for interested members of the Forum to discuss the subject in more detail.

## **6. Lorry Road User Charging**

A DfT policy official gave a presentation on the Government's proposals for Lorry User Charging. Citing the Coalition commitment to introduce the charge and wider European adoption similar schemes, there was a clear reason to explore ways of ensuring consistent treatment for UK and foreign hauliers. The aim was to make this cost-neutral for as much of the UK haulage sector as possible, while ensuring consistent treatment of foreign lorries.

Theo de Pencier said that he supported the measure, as it was easy to administer and simple to understand. The freight industry saw the policy as levelling the playing field. He noted that the FTA had been regularly consulted through the generation of the policy, and would consult its members further in light of the public announcement.

## **7. Other Business**

Aside from item 1a), no further other business was raised.

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***2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012***