

# **Motorists Forum**

## ***Minutes of meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011***

### **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
John Lewis	BVRLA
Robert Gifford	PACTS
Paul Everitt	SMMT
Ginny Clarke	Highways Agency
Tricia Hayes	DfT
Paul O'Sullivan	DfT (items 1-5)
Cathy Jenkins	DfT (item 4)
Peter Lee	DfT (item 6)

### **Apologies:**

Theo de Pencier  
CC Phil Gormley  
Graham Dalton

## **1. Introduction**

David Quarmby, as Chair, welcomed the members of the reconstituted Forum to the first of its meetings for 2011-12. He outlined the purpose of the Forum for the year ahead, emphasising its role as a body both to represent the interests of key players throughout the motoring community in dialogue with government, and also to provide a sounding board and advice for DfT on matters on which Ministers wish to brief and consult. The Chair put the terms of reference to the meeting, and asked for any comments.

## **2. DfT Oral Update**

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

- The arrival of a new Secretary of State in October, together with the major crash on the M5 over the weekend and its implications.
- Efforts to support growth, particularly involving the logistics sector and key infrastructure projects.
- The Red Tape Challenge, aiming to reduce burdens on individuals and business.
- The forthcoming completion of the Cook Review on the management of the Strategic Road Network.
- Completion of the consultation on lane rental and plans for future regulations
- Intention to consult on changes to the motorway speed limits
- Cooperative work with local government and the private sector to promote efficiency in highways maintenance.

Members showed a strong interest in the Cook Review. This led to a discussion about the question of a strategic framework for the management and development of the road network as a whole.

Edmund King raised concerns about the treatment of parking enforcement in the forthcoming Protection of Freedom Bill, with support from John Lewis.

### **3. Secretary of State**

The Secretary of State, Justine Greening, arrived and introduced herself to the Forum. The Chair welcomed her to the Forum and outlined its purpose. He also introduced the external members of the Forum and outlined the reasons for their involvement.

The Secretary of State began by saying that she valued what the Forum stood for, and that she was keen to promote ongoing feedback about the Department and its approach. She went on to give her views about transport, highlighting the importance of targeted investment in infrastructure, but also of ensuring a good consumer experience for motorists and other transport users. She noted that several existing policies, such as the review of the MoT, provided an opportunity to provide a better service to motorists.

Members congratulated Secretary of State on her appointment, and thanked her for taking time to address the Forum. Individual members also made offers of material support. On behalf of all members, the Chair thanked the Secretary of State for her ideas. He reiterated the Forum's willingness to help with delivering her agenda.

### **4. Road Safety Strategic Framework**

Rob Gifford explained the position of PACTS and the RAC Foundation on the recent road safety strategic framework. Paul O'Sullivan responded on behalf of DfT, making clear that coordination between authorities was an important part of the Road Safety Strategic Framework.

### **5. MOT Test Review**

Cathy Jenkins introduced the topic, outlining the areas which might be proposed for discussion in a future MoT test review. She noted that one of the key objectives would be to give the work a consumer focus.

In answer to a question from the Chair, both Cathy and Tricia Hayes reiterated that DfT were very keen to have the Forum involved through the proposed sub-committee to be chaired by Christopher Macgowan. Before being able to formally engage the Forum, it was first necessary to finalise the shape the work would take and the direction in which it would be headed.

Both the Chair and Christopher Macgowan agreed that it was important to determine the nature of the review – the 'exam question' to be addressed -

before becoming involved; but reiterated their willingness to support the work, in order to bring independent advice to help in reaching a decision.

## **6. National Planning Policy Framework**

Stephen Joseph explained concerns around the proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), particularly around potential congestion caused by inappropriate low density siting of such developments. For the Department, Peter Lee noted that a large volume of correspondence had been received as part of the NPPF consultation, and that DfT was working with CLG to make sure that the final version of the document addressed these issues, but also continued to support the growth agenda.

## **7. Other Business**

Both the Chair and Edmund King raised the issue of winter resilience. Tricia Hayes promised to update the Forum separately.

***Motorists Forum***  
***16<sup>th</sup> November 2011***