

Bus Taskforce Meeting – Minutes
14 December 2022 – 09:30 – 11:00 via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Minister for Transport - Jenny Gilruth
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport – Richard Holden
Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) Scotland, Director - Paul White
Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), Chief Executive – Graham Vidler
West Coast Motors and Borders Buses, CEO and Managing Director - Colin Craig
First Bus Scotland, Managing Director & CPT, Chair - Duncan Cameron
COSLA, Policy Officer – [redacted]
HiTrans, Director - Ranald Robertson
Stagecoach West Scotland, Managing Director - Fiona Doherty
Community Transport Association, Director for Scotland – David Kelly
Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, Vice-chair [redacted]
Bus Users Scotland, Director – Greig Mackay
McGill's, CEO - Ralph Roberts
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery [redacted]
Transport Focus, Senior Stakeholder Manager – [redacted]
Lothian, Managing Director – Sarah Boyd
Stagecoach Buses – Sam Greer
Transport Scotland, Director of BAAT - Bettina Sizeland
Transport Scotland, BAAT officials
Department for Transport, Senior Policy Advisor – [redacted]
Department for Transport Officials Supporting Minister Holden

Apologies

Traffic Commissioner – Claire Gilmore
Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, Chair – [redacted]
Scottish Citylink, Operations Director – Simone Smith (SS)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Discussion with Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport
3. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting
4. Taskforce Sub- groups – Update from Chairs
5. Bus Update from SPT and COSLA

1. Welcome extended to all attendees from Minister for Transport.

2. Discussion with Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport

- Shortage Occupation List is a matter for the Home Office. Half of Ukrainians in the UK with transport experience are now working in the sector.
- DVLA prioritise passenger transport and HGVs and are aiming for normal medical waiting times by February. DVSA are also prioritising bus tests. Average wait time of under 2 weeks in Scotland for vocational CPC - shorter than the UK average.
- There are legislation challenges to using online licence results rather than waiting for physical licence, but Minister Holden will look to push this.

- Minister Holden wants to see energy crisis support for businesses come through as quickly as possible.
- The allowance payment rate of 45p per mile has not been reviewed since 2012. The Treasury has advised that the 45p per mile rate is a guideline, so a higher rate can be applied. The reimbursement model is complex due to the requirement to go through local councils. **(Action – DfT officials)**
- UK Government is considering running a marketing campaign aimed at older people to encourage patronage growth in spring/summer 2023. **(Action – DfT)**
- TS to share work of the Driver Shortage subgroup with DfT **(Action – TS/DfT)**

3. **Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**

- Educational programme to tackle anti-social behaviour on public transport. **(Action – TS/CPT)**
- Discrepancy between LAs and Scottish Government approaches to removing school bus passes and NEC cards. **(Action – TS)**
- Impact of anti-social behaviour on drivers leading to sickness and stress. **(Action – TS)**

4. **Taskforce Subgroups – Chairs of each subgroup provided updates.**

5. **Bus Service Provision – Update from SPT and COSLA**

- CoSLA engaging with three LAs struggling with U22s uptake. **(Action – CD).**
 - SPT hitting pre-Covid patronage levels but have concerns around tender renewal process and filling gaps in the network without the necessary budget.
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Actions:

- **DfT officials to provide TS with further information on 2023 patronage growth marketing campaign.**
- **DfT officials to write on behalf of Minister Holden to TS about reimbursement rates.**
- **TS officials to compose letters to the Home Office on: Ukrainian exchange agreement; and SOL.**
- **TS officials to share work of the Driver Shortage subgroup with DfT. Minister Holden’s team to share updates with TS.**
- **TS officials to explore inclusion of behaviour guidance in marketing campaign with CPT.**
- **TS officials to invite Police Scotland representatives to the Taskforce.**
- **TS officials to provide advice to the Minister on short-term removal of NEC cards in relation to repeated instances of anti-social behaviour.**
- **[redacted] (CoSLA) to follow up with Cllr Macgregor on Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Western Isles U22s uptake.**
- **TS officials to draft a Ministerial letter to Minister Holden covering the questions raised in this meeting.**
- **TS officials to provide an update to members in January and PO to arrange next meeting date.**