



National Road Safety Committee

18 January 2024

10:00 – 11:30

Attendees:

- Eric Bush, Chief Officer Ministry PAHI – *Chair*
- Mrs. Cheryl Neblett, First Legislative Council, Legislative Drafting Department
- Durk Banks, Director Public Transport Unit
- Edward Howard, Director NRA
- Kurt Walton, Commissioner RCIPS
- Tristan Hydes, Deputy Chief Officer Ministry PAHI
- Michael Ebanks, Chief Officer Home Affairs
- Marion Pandohie, Transportation Planner/ Information Manager NRA
- Anne Kensington-Lott, Head of Communications Ministry PAHI
- Sean Vasquez, Acting Director Department for Public Safety and Communications
- Julian Lewis, Deputy Chief Officer Home Affairs
- Kee Sims, Senior Policy Advisor Ministry PAHI

Apologies:

- David Dixon, Director DVDL
- Oneisha Richards, Director Department of Communications

Opening of the meeting and review of minutes/actions

CO Eric Bush/PAHI, the Chair, started the meeting by welcoming the members and wishing them a happy New Year. Mr. David Dixon/DVDL had sent his apologies as well as Mrs. Oneisha Richards/DoC.

He reminded the Committee of the nine road deaths in 2023, and that this was an improvement from the previous year. However, the Road to Zero is still a long journey ahead. Working collaboratively is key to reducing the number of road fatalities on our islands, he said. In particular he thanked Mr Vasquez/DPSC for his work on the ArcGIS system, implementing it, and making sure the relevant updates were made so all information until 31st December 2023 has now been populated.

Since the Committee's establishment in September 2023, decisions have been made on which system to use, what the baseline is, and how the data can be manipulated. The creation of this central repository is a big achievement in such a short amount of time, and the Chair said this needed to be applauded. From now on the Committee can make real changes.

No further comments were provided on the draft minutes from 6 December.

The action items were reviewed. Action Item 1 which required the Champion of the Enforcement sub-committee to present the sub-committee's strategy, was still outstanding and the Commissioner would give a presentation at the next Committee meeting on 8 February.

- **ACTION ITEM 1:** The Enforcement sub-committee to present its strategy at the next Committee meeting on 8th February.

Action Item 2 required Mr. Tristan Hydes/PAHI to speak to Planning about House Numbering to emphasise the importance of this being a part of the Certificate of Occupancy Checks. Mr. Hydes confirmed closure of this action item as he had agreed with Planning to redesign house numbering to tighten it up.

Reflections on road safety during festive season

This part of the agenda allowed for a general discussion on road safety observations, accidents, measures taken, what worked well, what didn't etc.

Commissioner Walton/RCIPS provided an unofficial overview of the police figures in December 2023:

- 350 road traffic collisions
- 25 arrests for DUI
- 350 prosecutions, 100 of them for speeding

RCIPS was very busy in December with Campaigning and partnerships, for example with Arrive Alive. The Commissioner informed the Committee that 5000 members of the public took advantage of the Purple Ribbon buses (9pm to 4am) on New Year's Eve. This was a very compelling number and showcased how many people are willing to take the bus if there is a good, reliable system in place.

Additionally, the police ensured there was a lot more police visibility, also overnight. This certainly had an impact, although the cost of those operations was very high.

The Chair complemented the RCIPS and said it was evident how much they had done over the festive season. He said that financial support for these kinds of operations was critical, despite the cost.

The Commissioner reported less crimes in December compared to November, however a lot more collisions. The RCIPS is still analysing the causes but it's likely to be because the roads are busier in December, more people are out on the streets, and it's the start of the tourist high season.

In 2023 as a whole, there were 3,480 road traffic collisions. The Commissioner informed the members that the official data will be published in February/March 2024. He then stated that accidents often come down to drivers' responsibility, and that it's difficult to police that.

The Chair said that as Committee progresses, it will naturally move onto all accidents, not only fatalities. There was a brief discussion on certain high-risk collision areas on island, such as the new roundabout out of Fairbanks Road, and the lack of speed bumps near John Gray school. Both issues are being addressed by the NRA.

Redactions are per FOIA(2021Rev) s19(1)(a)

[REDACTED]

Redactions on this page are per FOIA(2021Rev) s19(1)(a)

There was a discussion on the way in which tickets and penalties are given, and how more can be done to bring logic and structure to the system. Mrs. Neblett referred to a question she had asked the Enforcement sub-committee on whether a survey could be developed to the general public about increased penalties. Only Mrs. Oneisha Richards had responded by saying that she supports the initiative and would help develop the survey. The Committee members generally agreed with such a proposal. The issue of compound ticketing was another area to be considered, as well as the point system on the licence which exists in most developed countries. The Chair then referred to incentivised fines whereby the cost of a fine gets higher the longer someone waits with paying it. Furthermore, Mr. Banks/PTU suggested removing the cap on the amount of ticket fees. At the moment someone that drives 30 miles over the speed limit gets same fine as someone that drives 15mph over the speed limit. These kinds of initiatives need technology investment.

The Commissioner said it currently is a complex web which has to be unlogged.

[REDACTED]

It was recognised that there are various issues that can be considered by the Enforcement sub-committee,

[REDACTED]

Education campaign update

Mrs. Anne Kensington-Lott/PAHI provided the Committee with a summary of the campaign plans, including a safety pledge challenge, and an awareness campaign (“No more in 2024”). She shared pins with the no more for 2024 logo and informed the members about the private and public engagement, ensuring Cabinet members’ participation. There will also be more promotional material to keep that awareness amongst the general public.

The Commissioner applauded the work that was done and that is on-going and said he had seen a lot of comms activity over the last couple of months. To strengthen the message, he suggested reaching out to families who lost loved ones in a road fatality as they may be willing to support the campaign

and warn against the dangers of reckless driving, DUI, speeding etc. The RCIPS can help getting in contact with those families who are willing to help.

- **ACTION ITEM 4:** DoC and PAHI to work with RCIPS in exploring the options to partner with families who lost loved ones and who would be willing to support the campaign.

The Chair noted that the period around Valentine's Day – with the 14th of February being a public holiday because of Ash Wednesday– will be a particularly busy time for parties, lots of people out drinking etc. Not only from a road safety perspective, but also from a comms/campaign perspective, this will be a time to be paying special attention to.

Taxi app

Mrs. Sims/PAHI asked Mr. Banks/PTU to give a short update on the taxi app. He summarised the capabilities and objectives of the app, saying that the app would not only make it easier to order a taxi, but increase the provision, the demand, and help collect much needed data which can then also be shared with other agencies, such as the NRA. In addition, it would give the PTU better oversight of the performance of taxi drivers as the app would have a complaint function and 'favourites' function.

The CO applauded the work and also informed the Committee that work is on-going in relation to the overall modernisation of the transport system. He asked for the two UK Department for Transport consultants to be invited to the Committee meeting in March to provide an update on their work to date.

- **ACTION ITEM 5:** Mrs. Sims/PAHI to invite the transportation consultants to the NRSC meeting in March.

AOB

The Chair informed the Committee members of a Caribbean Road Safety Conference in Puerto Rico which will be held July 30 - August 2 2024. He encouraged all members to attend. Mrs. Marion Pandohie/NRA echoed the Chair by saying that the NRA has attended several of those conferences already, and found them to be very helpful. She also said that the regional, Caribbean, focus of the conference and the issues that will be addressed, are immediately relevant as opposed to a European or American conference.

- **ACTION ITEM 6:** Mrs. Sims/PAHI to send out a Save the Date about the Caribbean Road Safety Conference.

The Chair ended the meeting at 11.30pm and thanked everyone for their contributions.

Action Items:

Action	Description	Status
1.	The Enforcement sub-committee to present its strategy at the next Committee meeting on 8 th February.	Green
2.	Redactions on this page are per FOIA(2021Rev) s19(1)(a)	Yellow
3.	Mrs. Kee Sims/PAHI to organise a meeting with Minister Jay Ebanks	Green
4.	DoC and PAHI to work with RCIPS in exploring the options to partner with families who lost loved ones and who would be willing to support the campaign.	Green
5.	Mrs. Sims/PAHI to invite the transportation consultants to the NRSC meeting in March.	Green
6.	Mrs. Sims/PAHI to send out a Save the Date about the Caribbean Road Safety Conference.	Green