

Road Safety Authority

Board Meeting Minutes & Action Tracker

Thursday 25 January 2024

Present	In Attendance
Ms Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson	Mr Sam Waide, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Sarah Johnson	Ms Kim Colhoun, Director of Finance & Corporate Services, Board Secretary
Ms Ashling Cunningham	Ms Nessa Kelly, Director of Strategy, Performance & Transformation
Mr Derek Cawley	Mr Michael Rowland, Director of Research, Standards & Assurance
Mr John Cronin	Ms Velma Burns, Research Manager
Dónall Curtin	Ms Laura Byrne, Executive Office
Dave Montgomery	

Board Minutes

1	Apologies and Introductions The members were welcomed to the meeting and the apologies were noted.
2	Meeting in the Absence of the Executive The members did not have a meeting in the absence of the executive.
3	Conflict of Interest Declaration No conflict-of-interest matter was declared by the members present.
4	Minutes from Board Meeting, Decision Record & Action Tracker of 14 December 2023 The minutes were reviewed by Board members with a number of editions/changes discussed. - The comms strategy update to reflect that a discussion was held on podcasts. - Definition of metrics to measure what good looks like to enable the RSA to change direction if necessary for ad campaigns to be provided. - Gender Pay Gap to be added to action plan to address the gap and for executive to provide update on implementation plan for all staff. - Reviewed wording regarding meetings with Data Commissioner and include Boards disappointment on the slow process of the data sharing agreement.



	Minutes approved subject to these changes by Board members.
5	Chairperson's Report Chair has met Keith Walsh, Assistant Secretary of Dept of Transport regarding measures to reduced road fatalities as well as budget and review. Indecon have been appointed for the review and this will commence on 26 January 2024 and to end towards mid-July. Executive to provide the Board with the final copy of the terms of reference for the Review Fundings was also part of the agenda. Dept of Transport would like to hold off discussions until SLA's for all services are being met and the review of the RSA is complete. The Board noted that increased population is a factor in not meeting SLA's and this should be highlighted during the DOT review. There has been progress with the speed camera national strategy. RSA have increased social media campaigns targeting youth cohort. Letter has issued to Minister Chambers regarding locations and numbers of average speed cameras. Average speed cameras are expensive to place but self-financing after a few years and RSA needs messaging around how this could support wider road safety activities. Dave Montgomery will act as Chairperson for Audit & Risk Committee with Donall Curtin joining as a member. Safe and Sober Seminar held on 19 January 2024. Research shows that 1 in 10 admit to drink driving and 1 in 4 motorists say it is acceptable to drive in their local area after drinking. There was an increase in arrests (over 8,000) during the Christmas period of drink and drug offences. At the event there were presentations by the ETSC, on best practice approaches to alcohol interlock programme implementation, as well as exemplars from Belgium and Sweden. The ETSC strongly recommend the roll out of such programmes to prevent drink driving fatal collisions. Following a presentation by Prof O'Neill on Action 23, there will be further discussion at RSTPB level on the potential approach for Ireland in relation to implementing such programmes. Minister Chambers had requested further discussion on this matter, including voluntary take-up. While fines for speeding and using a mobile phone (among others) were doubled in late 2022, it has been some time since penalty points have been reviewed/increased for these offences. The Speed Review Bill is before the House with hope this will introduce ability for the Minister to increase penalty points.



	188 fatalities in 2023 but waiting on coronial data after inquests to confirm the collision cause, this can take up to 3 years. Applus contract has been reviewed by legal contracts' experts. The report is currently being finalised and will be shared with the Board.
6	Board Annual Work Plan Board agreed with the proposal to have an external speaker 4 times per year under the suggested themes approach and suggested potential speakers under these themes was discussed. Chairperson has written to the Minister for Justice requesting a meeting to discuss enforcement concerns. A presentation to be provided to Board on the scope of Data Governance at upcoming meeting to address the Boards current concerns regarding data sharing. Board members were asked to review Board Governance Documents on sharepoint in advance of the March 21 2024 meeting.
7	2024 H1 Business Plan and Budget Nessa Kelly joined the meeting and provided an update. To ensure the RSA optimum level of reserves of █████ is maintained in this period, a 'Must Do' approach has been taken with this 6-month 2024 Budget. This ultimately means that there are multiple projects/ actions which have been deferred until H2 of 2024 or 2025 depending on funding availability. A list of these deferrals was provided to DOT in December at the Q4 DOT governance meeting. Business plan was outlined in project critical order where there is a contractual obligation to complete the project, or the project is business critical. Board queried the risk of reliance on one of the RSA key suppliers and whether the contract could be paused until concerns have been dealt with and due diligence complete. Executive to provide details of ongoing work on this at the ARC meeting in February. The multi annual Driver Testing Curriculum programme is being started with the driver education transformation project at the forefront. This includes an updated system to driver education, with overall curriculum having not been thoroughly reviewed in Ireland for 30years. Over H1 2024 the internal team will begin scoping this project but until the RSA is clear on the future funding model it would be risk to commence a multi-million-euro contractual commitment, with no agreed funding between DoT and RSA.



	New prioritisation approach agreed as part of the 2024 business planning cycle to ensure that RSA can meet contractual obligations next year and that critical projects which support continued delivery of national services are prioritised for allocation of resources and budget. Draft budget for January to June 2024 reviewed. Driver testing no shows covered in media. New system allows RSA to schedule short notice tests, but this is a separate issue caused by a loophole in DoT legislation. The multiple learner permit multi annual project will look into this concern as is a ministerial priority project but can only commence once Driver testing wait times met SLA in mid-2024. The Board expressed concern regarding the Department deviating from their Oversight role of the agency, with perceived encroachment of executive matters. Mitigation plans such as return to Service Level Agreements have been detailed and agreed by all. The Board and Directors should provide input as part of the DOT review of RSA. Performance Delivery Agreement being finalised which includes the addition of aligning RSA KPI's to Departments Strategic goals. Board approved the budget and business plan.
8	RSTP Actions, Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries for 2023. Michael Rowland and Velma Burns joined the meeting and provided the update on current provisional fatalities and serious injuries statistics. To meet the 2024 target, no more than 10 deaths per month. To meet the 2030 target, no more than 6 deaths per month. In 2023, there was an average of 16 deaths per month. A decline in drivers and front seat passengers wearing seat belts in observation studies. On average 1 in 10 drivers surveyed drove after consuming any alcohol. The EU had requested countries to undertake driver behaviour studies annually while they are waiting for coronial data. The board would like to see what the exemplar counties with low fatalities/serious injury rates are doing differently. Nessa Kelly provided an update of the RSTP actions. Discussion occurred around priority focus areas for 2024 and key interdependency organisations. This will be a key consideration for phase 2 planning. 1 action moved from Amber to Red: Action 190 (Driver curriculum review - Ministerial Priority) cannot progress without funding. Discussions with DoT ongoing. Annual Review 2023 was held on 18 January 2024 with high level findings being reviewed. 3 additional Ministerial priorities to be included for 2024. ❖ Camera based enforcement strategy



	❖ Multiple Learner Permits ❖ Safe road use education programme A communication enabler group may need to be established to work towards common goals and ensure no misunderstanding. The Board thanked the speakers for the presentations.
9	Chief Executive Officer's Report Road Safety Update NCT services achieved SLA of 12 days but will be 13 days for January due to car registration volumes at beginning of each year. DT on track to return to SLA in June and all new testers are in place. The Road Traffic Measures Bill 2023 was approved for publication by cabinet on 20 December. Key provisions include: • Provisions for penalty point reform. • Mandatory drug testing at the scene of serious collisions • Safer speed limits Ministerial Committee Meeting scheduled for 2pm today. Letter issued from Chairperson to Minister regarding speed camera locations and numbers. TII are leading on the safety camera strategy as agreed at the RSTP meeting. CEO to raise Board Members concerns regarding average speed cameras and Go Safe Vans. Organisation could have a secondment between them to focus on missing components and map locations. Revenue streams and costings to be provided. DOT review to begin on 26 January and end in mid-July with outcome to input into 2025 but DOT haven't mentioned funding for the rest of 2024, this is being followed up. Risk Report 2023 Reviewed and approved by Board. COPR.02 the rating has been increased to address the required 'must do' approach to H1 2024 business plan due to no approved headcount sanction or confirmed funding model. COPR.008 third party supplier failure to be reviewed to ensure the current concerns with one of our key suppliers are addressed. Likelihood should increase.
	Items for Further Discussion and Any Other Business Board vacancies - The board is now missing the victim voice with the members term ending. 2 positions to be filled by PAS as well as advertising for a new Chairperson. Gender could be a concern, and this has been raised with DOT. DOT are setting up a victim's advocacy group and RSA Executive will follow up with DOT on the status of this. The Board would like to invite this victim's group to attend a meeting annually, to share road safety perspectives.



	Circulation of papers – papers to be circulated 5 full business days prior to board meetings which excludes the day of the meeting. RSA to review other available technology options then sharepoint for access and hosting board papers. Papers will be taken as read and the meetings will focus on any issues. The Board requested that previous board members be invited to RSA events. Details and costings of the upcoming Transport Research Arena 2024 from April 15 to April 18 to be circulated.
	Date of Next Board Meeting Thursday 21 March 2024 in Dublin, Bow Street Offices

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

