

Road Safety Authority

Board Meeting Minutes & Action Tracker

Thursday 25 July 2024

Present	In Attendance
Ms Liz O'Donnell, Chairperson	Mr Sam Waide, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dave Montgomery	Ms Kim Colhoun, Director of Finance & Corporate Services, Board Secretary
Ms Ashling Cunningham	Mr Brendan Walsh, Chief Operations Officer
Mr Derek Cawley	Ms Laura Byrne, Executive Office
Mr Dónall Curtin	Dr Kiran Shama, Forensic Psychologist Associate Professor, School of Psychology University of Galway
Apologies	
Mr John Cronin	
Ms Sarah Johnson	

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 Response received from Minister Lawless to the letter from the Chairperson regarding the draft report from Indecon. Weekly call with Chairperson, Secretary General and Assistant Secretary held with Brendan Walsh attending. NCT and driving test wait times raised as a concern. It was highlighted that the global outage attached the NCT has caused a further set back to this SLA. This was highlighted in the letter from Minister Lawless. Update on NCT and driving tests to be provided to Board which should include month by month wait times of previous years, factors within and not in RSA control causing the wait times and outline a clear future plan. The update could include rationale to meet the



	SLA. Temporary sanction in place for driver testers but this is not attractive to staff and a permanent competition is needed. The minutes were approved by Board Members.
5	Chairperson's Report Minister Ryan presented the memo on the draft report to cabinet. Introductory meeting with Minister Lawless scheduled for July 25 at 2pm. Meeting with Minister McEntee scheduled for August 28. Is there a way to measure what figure should be spent on media campaigns/education for campaigns to be impactful. Could a comparison to what other countries spend on media and education be reviewed. Road safety should be part of the national curriculum in schools. A note to be prepared for Minister outlining educational reform which will include research, data aspects, finances needed and benchmark against other countries. The new time to talk campaign which is across various platforms has been very impactful. Engagement with Dept of Education on the TY programme to continue with launch expected in September 2024. Presentation to be provided to Board. RSA to confirm if a road safety curriculum was previously written. The TY Programme will be co-funded by RSA/DOT, Dept of Education and Irish Public Bodies, subject to approved budget. There is potential for further partnerships with organisations such as ADI's, insurance companies and universities.
6	Chief Executive Officer's Report Road Safety Update Fatalities are 109 as of 25 July 2024. There is a clear need for more enforcement. However, AGS state that detections are up. The 30-minute mandatory road safety checks appear to have resulted in decreased fatalities, however July has witnessed an increase. AGS has committed to recruit 75 staff to road safety. Statistics for drink driving detections are shared quarterly or on request. AGS do not record how many people are stopped only the number of detections. In Norway both the number of people stopped, and detections are recorded. RSA to request this data on a monthly basis for accountability and transparency with a potential meeting to be scheduled with Commissioner Harris to discuss further. Safety cameras were to launch at the end of September, but 3 cameras are delayed a month. AGS have committed to the 10 cameras by end of year.



The cameras will only detect speed as legislation will be needed for seatbelt detections. An interim measure could be to extend Go Safe hours. RSA to confirm potential to increase hours further.

There is no evidence of enforcement of escooters by AGS and no changes for user behaviour. Evidence and data on culture of use would be beneficial which would include user numbers, how many wear helmets, mobile phone use, 2 users. An observational study could be conducted by the RSA Research team. The research would highlight any cultural shift since the legislation has been introduced.

RSTP Update

Phase 2 of the Government Road Safety Strategy will be from 2025-2027. DOT chair the RSTP Board and for Phase 2 propose focus on a small number of cross agency transformational actions.

Phase 1 RSA actions will be largely delivered by end of 2024 with one action outstanding which has a dependency on DOT.

Board expressed concerns about the running of the RSTP Board and where an Independent Chair should be appointed with a new work plan.

RSA will provide update on Speed Awareness for the September RSTP Meeting.

The Internal Audit report on the administration of RSTP has important recommendations and needs to be issued to DOT once approved.

Risk Report 2024

Corp 1 – Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 it was queried should this increase due to delay in delivering on actions and funding concerns and issues with RSTP. Executive to assess the impact and likelihood against the current mitigations.

Corp 11 – Collision Data should not be archived but remain on the risk register. Section 8 to allow sharing has been signed by the Minister however there is still primary legislation required to allow local authorities to receive the data.

CLT plan to conduct a lesson learned session on the global outage last week to inform its BCP crisis communications plan. A list of 3rd party Tier 1 suppliers that the RSA are reliant on should be considered as part of this exercise part of this.

Corp 13 – TISP Re-Let delay in tendering the contract there is a risk to continuation of technical inspection services for NCT. The delay was due to reviewing the possibility of bringing the service in house but need a sanction from DOT, technology plan development and discussions with data conversion.



7	H2 2024 Business Plan and Budget The paper was taken as read. RSA Board requested confirm what assurances from DOT are necessary to enable the Board to approve this budget DOT have issued a letter on 30 May 2024 to RSA to reassure that they will provide funding support necessary expenditure in the second half of 2024, if required following the depletion of reserves. A response letter to be issued to DOT to outline that all of the business plan is considered necessary highlighting the increase to funding risks in the Corporate Risk Register, due to the need for RSA to utilise the €7m optimum level of reserves while awaiting the recommendations from the ongoing newERA review. Clarity will need to be sought on monthly deficit run rate to identify the period the RSA project reserves to have depleted to zero. Draft letter to be shared with board for feedback in advance of sending. Board have approved the business plan, business critical and contractual expenditure subject to update from DOT when funding will be made available. The executive will review the plan on a monthly basis until there is firm commitment from DOT in relation to funding. Meeting to be requested with Minister Ryan and Minister Lawless to discuss the review and funding arrangements.
8	Report on mobile phone use when driving in Ireland Dr. Kiran Sharma joined the meeting and provided an update on his research. The presentation had previously been shared with the Ministerial Committee and RSTP Board. Legislation would be needed to detect mobile phone use while driving and currently offences are only by AGS detection. Dr Sarma to confirm if the UK pilot has legislation in place before the detection came into effect. This pilot research will show the impact of camera detection on mobile phone use. Could a similar pilot be rolled out in Ireland for research purposes. Privacy issues and GDPR concerns would need to be considered. Currently traffic cameras pick up the number plate. The EU has demonstration grants available when there is no prosecution and for the demo the research team would be paired with a supplier.



	Car entertainment systems is a concern with Australia enforcing an offence for touching and swiping the screen. Northern Ireland has greater penalties for mobile phone use and retraining as an option also. Higher penalties should be applied in Ireland. Dr. Sarma will review gender data that the RSA has available for this offence. RSA legal division to provide legal update on camera detection of mobile phone use required in Ireland.
9	Items for Approval • Provision of external procurement and implementation partner services to the RSA – Brendan Walsh joined the meeting to present this item for decision. • Provision of Consultancy Services for the continued implementation and further development of the RSA Data Strategy Contract - To be reviewed by Board at an additional Board meeting via teams due to meeting overrun resulting in no quorum. Due to meeting overrun and no quorum present for this item, it was agreed to schedule a virtual Board Meeting for early next week to seek approval for both of these contracts.
10	Items for Further Discussion and Any Other Business - Board Platform update - user training to be provided to Board members in September - New ad campaigns – update shared with Board - Seminar on Serious Injuries – September 18 in the Aisling Hotel. Invite will be sent to members.
	Date of Next Board Meeting Thursday 26 September 2024 in Bow Street, Dublin



Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____ 19 September 2024 _____

