

Public Affairs Working Group minutes

Thursday 8 February 2024
14.00 – 16:00
20 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, SW1H 0NB

INTRODUCTION

- The meeting was chaired by Ben Garratt, Deputy Director – Public Affairs, Logistics UK
- Introductions were made.
- Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Members were reminded about competition law compliance.

LOGISTICS UK ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

- Members were updated on Logistics UK's public affairs activity since the last meeting in November. This included encouraging 28 parliamentary questions to be tabled; 9 consultation and inquiry responses; meetings and roundtables with ministers and shadow ministers; and events including the 2024 Generation Logistics Parliamentary reception.
- The group was briefed on upcoming activity including key meetings with shadow ministers; the publication of Logistics UK's manifesto and the scheduled publications of the London, Midlands and North manifestos; the launch of the 'Van Plan' report; meetings with backbench MPs; planned submissions to upcoming consultations and inquiries; and several roundtables and events.

GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN MCTERNAN, SENIOR ADVISER AT BCW GLOBAL AND FORMER POLITICAL SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR

- John noted his recent involvement with Labour party leader Sir Keir Starmer and the Labour party. He stated that he believes that front-bench politicians do not understand the way in which the logistics sector operates, how it has modernised and how imperative it is. He believes that politics and society in general only take notice of the logistics sector when there is an issue. Not when it is functioning without fault.
- John stressed that the Labour party wants to change the level of investment in the UK to get to a new economic equilibrium, and to decarbonise. Given the scale of the challenge, John reasoned that a Labour government should be looking at an 8-to-10-year plan. Within this, there must be a big focus on encouraging foreign direct investment and domestic business investment, and bringing down the cost of delivery of major projects. This all adds up to a focus on regulatory change, including reforming the planning system, a new approach to national infrastructure projects and building on the 'Green Belt'.
- John highlighted that Labour's focus on improving workers' rights is real, and is related to the importance the Labour leader puts on his relationship with the Deputy Leader and the GMB union in particular. A 'making work pay' message has been shown to work in by-elections.
- As for the logistics sector moving forward, John stated that politicians learn through stories and therefore the logistics sector must tell its story well. Tell stories about change, people and

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partnerships. In answering how members get in front of a Labour government, John pointed out that members have data, knowledge, insight and a position that a politician would not have appreciated. He believes that politicians need to get out more and therefore members should be taking politicians to site visits. However, key to remember that, when talking to a politician, instead of going in with an ask, members should be going in with an offer. He also acknowledged that navigating the devolution of power to regions is challenging.

- John offered his email address to be shared with the group and encouraged members to get in touch. His email address is: john.McTernan@BCW-global.com

ESTABLISHING OUR TARGET CANDIDATES AHEAD OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

- Ben updated the group on the latest YouGov survey polls that predict Labour to win 385 seats which would see them secure a majority of 120. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt is amongst 11 Cabinet Ministers forecast to lose.
- The group was updated on Logistics UK's work on mapping candidates for all seats with high concentrations of logistics, and where there is likely change of MP. Logistics UK will use this list to target relevant candidates when sending out mailings and invites to events. As a next step, Logistics UK would very much appreciate it if members could:
 - Review the list: [240119 MPs and candidates with large number of logistics roles or for candidates interest in sector.xlsx](#). As you will see, there are filters that may help you with this.
 - Add any MPs where you know they have a large logistics presence in their constituency. Please use one of the "notes" columns, to explain why they have been added, plus your name, should we have any questions.
 - Please **do not delete** any of the information in the sheet already. If you think it should be removed or revised, please add a note, with your name, in a "notes" column.
- Logistics UK will then review the entries, and consider whether any candidates should also be added. We will add a candidate if the MP is standing down, or if they are contesting the seat again and likely, according to the latest polls, to lose that seat.

LONDON, NORTH AND MIDLANDS MANIFESTOS

- Natalie updated members on the development of Logistics UK's regional manifestos ahead of the Mayoral elections on 2 May.
- The London manifesto to be launched in February will focus on:
 - **A public-private partnership** to enable efficient logistics and to develop a world-class freight and logistics environment in the capital.
 - **Innovate and integrated infrastructure** to enable goods to be moved in the most productive, strategic and green way, backed by investment in river crossings and the retention of capacity on major routes.
 - **Safe logistics** with vulnerable road users protected, backed by new infrastructure and educational campaigns to support more walking and cycling in a way that

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- supports Vision Zero, together with an approach to the Direct Vision Standard that is effective and fair.
- **A fair transition to a green economy** underpinned by support for electric and low carbon fuelled vehicles and the radical reform of the London Lorry Control Scheme.
- Natalie informed members that the Northern manifesto will be focused on mayoral elections for Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the North East, Tees Valley, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. And that the Midlands manifesto will be focused on mayoral elections in West and East Midlands. These manifestos, at a high level, call for:
 - A public-private partnership to unlock investment and enable logistics to maximise the benefit it can deliver to the economy. This should be backed by the mayors each appointing a senior lead for logistics, responsible for ensuring the sector has its rightful, prominent place in each region's growth, environmental and skills strategies.
 - Innovative and integrated infrastructure, with the North/Midlands playing an integral part in a national logistics network. This must be based on long-term infrastructure plans, planning reforms and the development and adoption of technologies to deliver logistics in new ways – all focused on achieving the most productive, strategic and green movement of goods.
 - A fair transition to a green economy underpinned by investment in commercial vehicle electric charging and low carbon fuel production; and urban logistics backed as an essential part of our communities, not inhibited by patchworks of rules and charges that risk inefficient transport movements and increased overall emissions.
 - Skills partnerships to support a thriving sector, with careers in logistics backed by reforms to skills funding, effective local skills strategies and a sustained commitment to attracting people, ensuring businesses have a strong pipeline of talent to draw from and nurture.
 - To achieve this, the logistics sector is seeking partnerships with combined authorities focused on:
 - Creating, and encouraging their local authorities to develop, supportive policy environments for logistics, including in decisions on transport and energy infrastructure, planning and urban transport rules and charges.
 - Fostering collaboration and intelligence sharing between logistics businesses and the advanced manufacturing, technology and energy sectors – to drive green growth.
 - Providing material support to boost their logistics sectors in the areas of skills and innovation.
- Members requested consideration of inclusion of SAF and a plan to reinstate or replace HS2 north of Birmingham.

UPCOMING DELEGATION TO LONDON GATEWAY AND NEXT STEPS

- Natalie confirmed that our first group visit will take place on Wednesday 13 March and is aimed at MPs standing for re-election and candidates.

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- The visit will include a tour of the port and logistics park, seeing a Freightliner train departure and a tour of the UPS facility to coincide with the first sort of the evening.

MEETING DATES FOR 2024

- Logistics UK shared that the meeting would be on Thursday 6 June, but has since changed the date to **Thursday 11 July**. An updated meeting invite has been circulated to the group.
- The final meeting of the year will be on Thursday 7 November.

All meetings will be held from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at 20 Victoria Street.

Diary placeholders have been emailed to the group.

ATTENDEES

Chair

Ben Garratt

Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Logistics UK

Members

Helen Barker

Evri

Sarah Bell

UPS

Damien Drumm

John Lewis Partnership

Rob Gwynn

Asset Alliance Group

Carita Ogden

Amazon

Sarah Ralphs

Heathrow Airport

John Stafford Mills

The Communication Group

James Stephens (online)

DHL

Simon Villanueva

Volvo Group

Jacob Wallace

Royal Mail

Darren Wilson

DPD UK Group

Matthew Wright

Freightliner Group

Guest

John McTernan

Senior Adviser at BCW Global

Staff

Natalie Chapman

Head of Public Affairs

Ellis Shelton

Senior Policy Advisor