

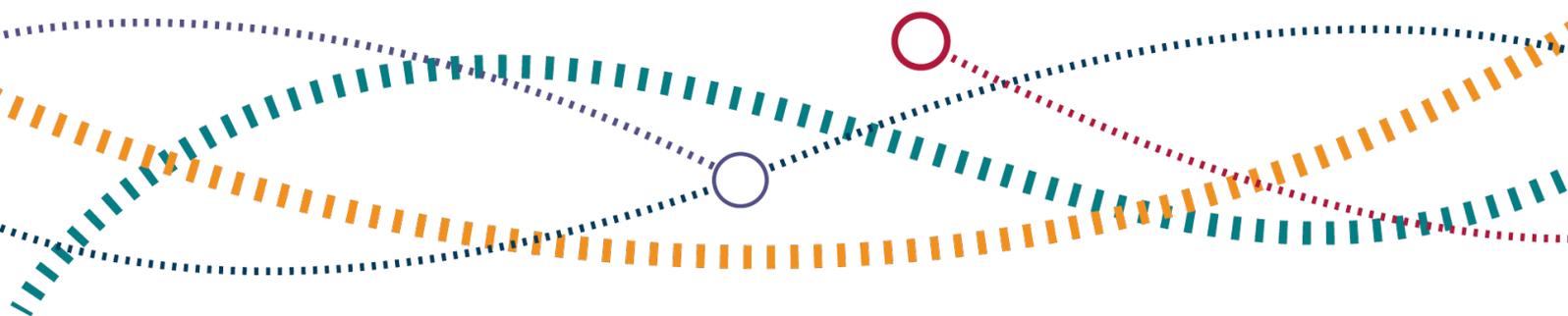


# Road Expert Panel

4 October 2023

Virtual Meeting on Teams

1000	Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest
1015	Update from the Highways Team
1035	Area of focus 1: National Highways' DDaT strategy
1105	Area of focus 2: National Highways: safety – road to zero harm
1155	Break
1205	Area of focus 3: ORR's annual assessment of safety on the SRN
1250	AOB and Look Ahead



## Welcome, setup, and declarations of interest

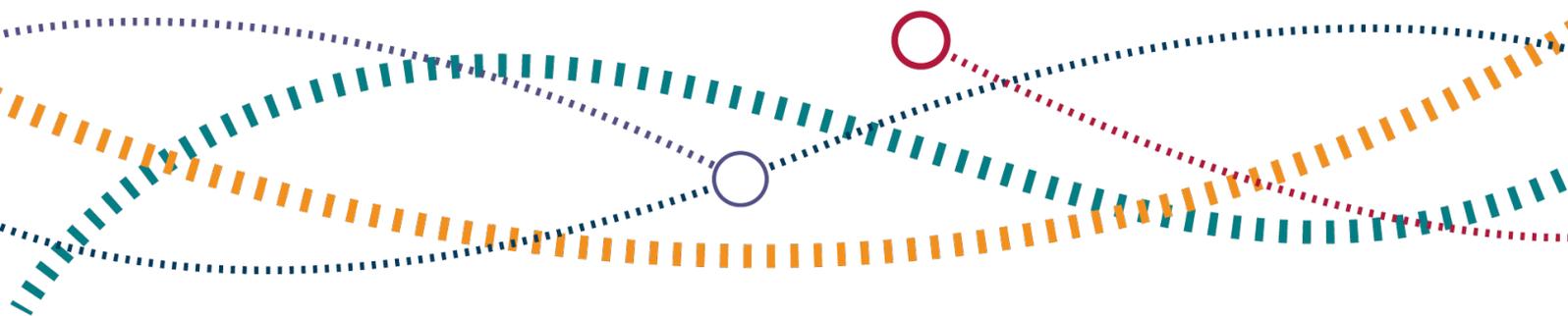
1. ORR welcomed panel members.
2. There were no declarations of interest from members.

## Update from the Highways Team

3. ORR provided a summary of activity following its [annual assessment](#) of National Highways' performance for 2022-23, published on 18 July 2023. The company is working with ORR to address the areas of focus highlighted in the report.
4. ORR provided an update on the road investment strategy (RIS) setting process. The Department for Transport (DfT) is currently reviewing responses from a consultation on the strategic road network initial report (SRNIR) that closed in July 2023. As part of the RIS setting process DfT and ORR will review the performance specification for the third road period (RP3). Key decisions on the performance specification should be finalised before the end of 2023 to inform the preparation of National Highways' draft strategic business plan (dSBP).
5. Panel members discussed the potential impacts of a general election on ORR's future activities.

## Area of focus 1: National Highways' DDaT strategy

6. A National Highways representative provided an overview of its digital, data and technology (DDaT) strategy. The presentation defined the strategy, confirmed key priorities, both present and future, of the strategy and provided a progress update on the refresh of the strategy.
7. In response to panel members' queries, National Highways clarified the scope of its DDaT strategy and explained its connections to other commitments, such as the digital roads programme. The company emphasised that the digital roads programme encompasses a broader perspective than the DDaT strategy.
8. Panel members asked how National Highways balances the requirements of local authorities and connectivity with the primary route network (PRN) in the context of its digital programmes. The company stressed the importance of robust data management to supply accurate and reliable information to all stakeholders.



## Area of focus 2: National Highways: safety – road to zero harm

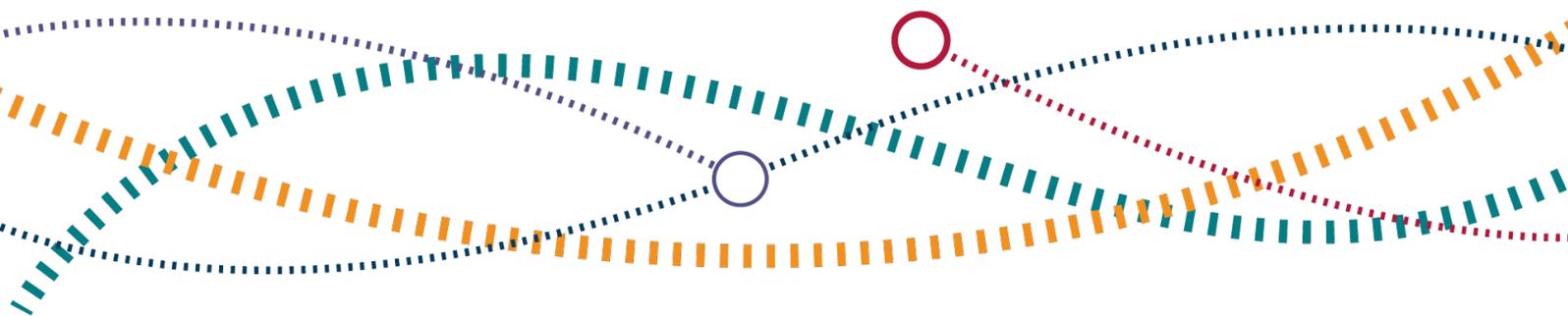
9. National Highways representatives provided the panel with a progress update on the company's road to zero harm programme. The presentation outlined key safety trends and the current workplan as well as activities that the company could implement to achieve vision zero.
10. Panel members asked about National Highways' safety leadership role and its influence on commercial stakeholders. The company acknowledged that improving road safety is a joint endeavour that requires input from firms that share in the vision to achieve zero road deaths.
11. There was a discussion about how ORR holds National Highways to account to achieve its end of road period safety key performance indicator (KPI).

## Area of focus 3: ORR's annual assessment of safety on the SRN

12. The Highways Team provided an overview of National Highways' safety-related performance and welcomed panel input to its key areas of focus for the 2023 safety report.
13. Areas discussed included whether National Highways is doing all that might be reasonably expected to achieve its safety target by the end of 2025 and the effectiveness of current safety measures such as radar-based stopped vehicle detection (SVD) technology on all lane running (ALR) sections of smart motorway.
14. Panel members highlighted the importance that National Highways is able to demonstrate that improvements in performance are a result of genuine improvements rather than methodological changes. ORR must ensure that messages and headlines are explained clearly, in a quantified and transparent manner.

## AOB and Forward Look

15. No other business.
16. Next meeting is scheduled for January 2024.





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