



ORR Road Expert Panel meeting

24 February 2022, 1000 to 1430

25 Cabot Square, London

Agenda

1000 to 1015	ORR introductions and general housekeeping
1015 to 1040	Introduction to ORR and the Highways Monitor
1040 to 1125	Panel Member Introductions
1125 to 1150	Introduction to Road Expert Panel
1150 to 1215	Terms of Reference Discussion
1215 to 1300	Break
1300 to 1400	Discussion and questions on upcoming programme of work
1400 to 1415	Upcoming schedule of Road Expert Panel Meetings
1415 to 1430	AOB

ORR introductions and general housekeeping

Apologies from Mark Kemp. All other Panel members were present.

Sneha Patel, Deputy Director for Highways, welcomed the Panel members to the first meeting of the new Road Expert Panel.

Introduction to ORR and the Highways Monitor

The Highways Team gave an introductory presentation on the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) and the Highways Monitor. This included an overview of the role of the Highways Monitor, the Highways Team, and the work that the Highways Team undertakes.

The Panel discussed the areas where it might effectively provide advice to the Monitor and sought clarification on the remit of the Highways Monitor's role.

Panel Member Introductions

The Panel, in turn, each gave an introduction on their areas of expertise, their expectations of the Panel, and one key issue they would like the Panel to influence. Key issues that the Panel said it would like to influence included Net Zero, improving the environmental footprint of the strategic road network, road safety, user satisfaction, and benchmarking.

Introduction to the Road Expert Panel

To give the Panel an understanding of how it could best support the Highways Monitor over the next few years, the Highways Team provided an overview of the Panel's role. This included background on the Panel's formation, the purpose of the Panel, its remit, and the organisation of future meetings.

With four returning members to the Panel, there was a discussion about some of the changes made to the organisation of the Road Expert Panel. For example, the Highways Team has committed to including time for a forward look in future Panel meetings.

The Panel discussed the published notes of its meetings. It was agreed that starting with the second meeting of the Panel in March, the Highways Team would circulate the high-level meeting note to be published on the ORR website in good time for the Panel to comment.

Terms of Reference Discussion

The Panel agreed the updated Terms of Reference for the Road Expert Panel and to publish these to the ORR website.

Discussion and questions on upcoming programme of work

The Highways Team presented its programme of upcoming work to the Panel. This included work to be undertaken by the Highways Team and work for which consultants had been or were intended to be appointed.

The Panel discussed areas of work from the upcoming programme that it would like to influence, including the Monitor's plans and preparations for the third road investment strategy (RIS3). The Panel agreed that the programme of work for the year was comprehensive.

Upcoming schedule of Road Expert Panel meetings

At the next Road Expert Panel meeting in March, the Panel will be discussing ORR's draft key messages for its annual assessment of National Highways' performance for 2021-22.

The Highways Team said that after this, it expected to organise two further Panel meetings, in the summer and autumn and discussed with the Panel what these might cover.

AOB

The Panel agreed that it would like to have an item at a future meeting focused on road users.