

PACTS Road Environment Working Party

Applications invited for Chair

December 2019



Summary

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) wishes to appoint a Chair for its Road Environment Working Party – an important, voluntary role. *If you are interested please submit your CV and a short expression of interest by 31st January 2020.*

About PACTS

PACTS is a leading multi-modal transport safety think-tank connected with the UK Parliament. It is a charity and company limited by guarantee. It has provided the secretariat to the Transport Safety All-Party Parliamentary Group. It has a small staff based in offices near the Houses of Parliament.

PACTS wants to see *Safe Transport for All*. It is non-party political, independent of government and the civil service. Established in 1982, it brings together transport safety specialists from the public, private, research and professional fields to advise and inform Parliamentarians, Government and civil servants on road, rail and aviation safety issues. Its income comes from members' subscriptions (about 100 organisations), sponsorship, research grants, conferences and events.

Policy and governance matters are decided by the PACTS Directors who are also trustees. The Board is supported by a Policy & Research Committee and a Management & Finance Committee. PACTS endorses the safe system approach to transport safety.

Working parties

PACTS has for many years been supported by technical working parties on air, rail and road safety. These comprise experts on transport safety matters who attend in a voluntary capacity. They meet three times a year. They advise PACTS and members benefit from the exchange of information and networking.

There are currently five working parties with Chairs as follows:

- Rail Safety, Carolyn Griffiths, former head of Rail Accident Investigation Branch
- Road Environment, *Vacancy from 1st January 2020* (when Heather Ward, UCL, steps down)
- Road User Behaviour – Professor David Crundall. Nottingham Trent University
- Vehicle Design, Richard Cuerden, Director, TRL
- Aviation Safety – PACTS relies on the independent Air Safety Group. Ian Frow is the representative to PACTS.

Each Chair is supported by a Vice-chair.

Members of the working parties are normally drawn from among the PACTS Member organisations, but this is not a prerequisite and Member organisations are not necessarily invited attend. Members act in a voluntary capacity, bringing their individual expertise and knowledge to inform PACTS' policy statements and responses to consultations. The meetings also provide an opportunity

for those involved to keep abreast of policy developments at a national level. In particular, to assist PACTS with:

- identifying priorities for PACTS to focus on and to highlight to government;
- responding to consultations;
- producing policy statements, technical notes, articles etc.

The working parties require a significant effort from members and PACTS staff. It is therefore important that they are productive. PACTS will update working party members on PACTS' activities and news from Parliament and Government.

Meetings

The working parties normally meet three times a year (January, May and September) in London. We rely on our member organisations to host them. The three road safety working parties normally meet together and hold a joint "themed" meeting in the morning and separate meetings after lunch, from 10.00-15.00.

Meetings will normally include

- a talk and discussion led by a member or guest with specialist knowledge;
- a business section (see below).

A report of the discussions is circulated to each of the Members' meetings in order to inform members. A report from each of the working parties on the year is also included in the Annual Review sent to all members and used to inform potential members and others about PACTS' work.

Where appropriate, working party discussions are conducted under the Chatham House rule – i.e. statements and conclusions may be recorded but are not attributed to individuals.

Road Environment Working Party members

The former Chair of REWP was Heather Ward, Honorary Research Fellow, University College London. Heather steps down in December 2019 after six years in post. Members of the REWP are drawn from many sectors, including academics, practitioners and representatives of road user groups. The REWP has traditionally led on road casualty statistics and speed enforcement issues.

The role of Chair

The role involves the following

- Procedural: agenda setting, membership, approving minutes, chairing meetings, reporting to PACTS Member meetings and helping to ensure that the working party fulfils its purpose as above;
- Advice: ad hoc advice to the Executive Director;
- Assistance with media inquiries (unusual);
- Policy & Research Committee: the WP chairs are ex-officio members of the PACTS Policy & Research Committee and attend or liaise with the Committee on policy and technical matters. P&RC meets two or three times a year, usually 11.30-3.30pm.

Attending the REWP meetings is obviously vital. Attendance at the others is desirable but not a requirement.

Requirements

We are looking for somebody with who can demonstrate most or all of the following:

- Independence from vested interests;
- knowledge of the key people, institutions and businesses;
- knowledge of transport safety, the technical issues and frameworks;
- Sound understanding of the importance of, and experience working with, the research knowledge base for policy making;
- good organisational and inter-personal skills, including chairing committees or similar bodies;
- good oral and written communication skills;
- enthusiasm for working with PACTS to promote transport safety;
- a capacity to promote PACTS to the road safety sector and attract and retain members;
- an interest in cross-modal safety issues.

Out of pocket expenses

By prior agreement, PACTS will reimburse out of pocket travel expenses when requested.

Length of office

The post is for three years, renewable for a further three years with agreement of the individual and PACTS trustees.

To apply

Please apply with CV and a short covering letter, explaining your interest in the post, key strengths and your approach, to David Davies, Executive Director, at david.davies@pacts.org.uk.

Closing Date is 31st January 2020. Depending on applications, candidates may be invited to interview, be interviewed by phone or a decision may be made on the basis of written applications. PACTS hopes to make a decision by the end of February. The decision is made by the PACTS Trustees.

Further information

More details about PACTS can be found at: www.pacts.org.uk. If you would like an informal discussion, please call David Davies on 020 7222 7732.

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