

PACTS Rail Safety Working Party

Applications for Chair invited

October 2017



Summary

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) wishes to appoint a Chair for its Rail Safety Working Party – an important, voluntary role. If you are interested please submit your CV and a short expression of interest by 15th December 2017.

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 provides the secretariat to the Transport Safety All-Party Parliamentary Group. It has a small staff based in offices close to the Houses of Parliament.

PACTS' charitable objective is "To protect human life through the promotion of transport safety for the public benefit". 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, David Morris, Chair of CIRAS (he steps down on 31st December 2017)
- Road Environment, Heather Ward, Centre for Transport Studies, UCL
- Road User Behaviour, Oliver Carsten, Professor of Transport Safety, University of Leeds
- Vehicle Design, Richard Cuerden, Chief Scientist, TRL
- Aviation Safety – PACTS relies on the independent Air Safety Group. Ian Frow is the representative to PACTS.

Members of the working parties act in a voluntary capacity, bringing 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;
- responding to consultations;
- producing policy statements and technical notes.

PACTS will update working party members on PACTS' activities and news from Parliament and Government.

The working parties require a significant effort from members and PACTS staff. It is therefore important that they are productive.

Meetings

The working parties normally meet three times a year for about two hours. A report of their 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.

The three road safety working parties now tend to meet on the same day and hold a joint "themed" meeting in the morning and separate meetings after lunch. The Rail Safety WP usually meets in London, with a sandwich lunch at 1.00pm followed by the business meeting 1.30-4.00pm.

Meetings will normally include

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

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

Rail Safety Working Party members

The current Chair of RSWP is David Morris who will be stepping down at the end of 2017 after five years in post. Members of the RSWP are drawn from across the rail sector and include senior safety professionals from NR, RDG, RSSB, RAIB ORR, RIA, TOCs, unions and other important parts of the sector.

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 twice a year, usually 12.00-3.00pm.

Attending the RSWP 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;
- 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 rail sector and attract and retain members;
- an interest in cross-modal safety issues.

Out of pocket expenses

PACTS will reimburse out of pocket travel expenses.

Length of office

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

To apply

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

Closing Date is Friday 22 November 2017. Depending on applications, candidates may be invited to interview or interviewed by phone or a decision may be made on the basis of written applications. PACTS hopes to make a decision before the year end. 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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