

PACTS Rail Safety Working Party

Applications invited for Vice-Chair

March 2024



Summary

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) wishes to appoint a Vice-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 Monday 15th April 2024.*

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 115 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 the Rail Accident Investigation Branch
- Road Environment, Kate Fuller, Road Safety Engineering Director, Road Safety Foundation
- 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. Nick Clutton 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 to 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) with two online meetings and one in-person event. The in-person event in 2024 will be a day in September, held with the other working parties as a joint "themed" meeting in the morning and separate rail safety working party meeting after lunch. The theme for 2024 is Safety Critical Software.

Meetings will normally include

- a talk and discussion led by members or guests with specialist knowledge;
- a business section

A report of the discussions is circulated to each of the Members' meetings. 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.

Rail Safety Working Party members

Members of the RSWP are drawn from many parts of the rail industry: heavy rail, metro and light rail, including academics, passenger and freight rail operators, rail equipment suppliers, Network Rail, ORR, DfT, RSSB, Transport Focus and Trade Unions.

The role of Vice Chair

The role involves working with the chair in:

- Agenda setting both for meetings and the wider PACTS rail strategy, promotion of membership, deputising for the chair in chairing meetings and 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 and Deputy Executive Director;
- Assistance with media inquiries (unusual);
- Policy & Research Committee: the WP vice 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.

Requirements

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

- independence from vested interests;
- knowledge of rail transport safety, technical and operational issues, the industry structure and its governance and commercial frameworks;
- good working relationships within the rail professional network
- experience of identifying the case for change; working with the industry to promote that change
- developing and recommending policies for change
- 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 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 Margaret Winchcomb, Deputy Executive Director, at admin@pacts.org.uk.

Closing Date is 15th April 2024. 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. Interviews will be held on 30th April 2024. PACTS hopes to make a decision by 10th May 2024. The decision is made by the PACTS Trustees.

For further information regarding PACTS can be found at www.pacts.org.uk

Further information

More details about PACTS can be found at: www.pacts.org.uk. If you would like an informal discussion, please call Margaret Winchcomb, Deputy Executive Director, PACTS on 07545 362587.

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