

PACTS Vehicle Design Working Party

Applications invited for Vice-Chair

December 2024



Summary

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) wishes to appoint a Vice-Chair for its Vehicle Design Working Party – an important, voluntary role. *If you are interested please submit your CV and a short expression of interest by Monday 13th January 2025.*

About PACTS

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) is a UK-based registered charity, and company limited by guarantee, dedicated to improving transport safety. Formed in 1982, PACTS plays a unique role by bridging the gap between safety professionals and lawmakers. Its aim is to advise and inform members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords on air, rail and road safety issues, bringing together safety professionals and legislators to identify research-based solutions to transport safety problems with regard to cost, effectiveness, achievability and acceptability.

PACTS wants to see “A transport system free from death and life-changing injury, in which all users feel safe.”. The organisation draws its income to support work towards this vision from member subscriptions, sponsorships, research grants, and events. PACTS is independent of political or commercial interests and collaborates with various stakeholders across the public, private, and third sectors. It provides the secretariat for the APPG for Transport Safety.

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.

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 of the VDWP are drawn from many parts of the industry, including academics, practitioners and representatives of road user groups.

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

The Chair and vice-Chair of each working party are expected to attend meetings of the Policy & Research Committee, to report to and work with Trustees.

Meetings

The working parties normally meet three times a year (January, May and September) with two online meetings and one in-person event.

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 three annual PACTS Council of Members' meetings. A report from each of the working parties in 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.

The role of Vice-Chair

The role involves working with the chair in:

- Attending working party meetings;
- Agenda setting both for meetings and the wider PACTS strategy, promotion of membership, deputising for the chair in chairing meetings and reporting to PACTS Council of 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 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 the automotive industry, key people, institutions and businesses;
- knowledge of transport safety, the technical issues;
- 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 vehicle 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 13th January 2025. Depending on applications, candidates may be invited to interview. These interviews will be held online in late January 2025. PACTS hopes to make a decision by mid-February 2025. The decision is made by members of PACTS Policy and Research Committee.

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.

e admin@pacts.org.uk
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