



Notes of the EASIG Meeting
Held on: 01st October 2014
At: CIHT, London

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Apologies and Notes of Previous Meeting</p> <p><i>Paul Sharpe (PS) chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees. Louis Smith (ICES) sent apologies in advance</i></p>	
2.	<p>BPA Updates</p> <p><i>Richard Hilton (BPA) gave an update of BPA activity</i></p>	
3.	<p>Discussion about the evolution of the De-Regulation Bill (led by PS and Patrick Troy PT)</p> <p><i>After a brief statement about the BPA's role in lobbying government on the evolution of the De-Regulation Bill, there was a discussion about the Bill and also the consultation on the right to challenge public parking policies.</i></p> <p><i>Main concern with the consultation was that time and resource will be spent on answering challenges and <u>adding</u> restrictions.</i></p> <p><i>It was asked whether any consideration had been given to economic impacts and unintended consequences and Patrick Troy said that none had been given in the consultation.</i> (Note: The BPA's official response to the consultation can be found here).</p>	
4.	<p>Review of the Civil Enforcement Agent regulations (Ann Marie Goddard – MoJ (AMG))</p> <p><i>AMG introduced her colleague Jennifer Poyser and Poppea Daniel to the group, and spoke about the performance of the new Civil Enforcement regulations, concentrating on the issues that the MoJ has encountered in their first months:</i></p> <p><i>The main focus has been on the interpretation of the regulations. , and the Ministry has been reviewing the unintended consequences of the regulations during the first year. For example there has been</i></p>	

	<p>an increase in witness statements to councils, possibly due to the £75 charge making action more high profile. AMG asked for more information about this increase in statements.</p> <p>Overall the feedback from users has been good. There have been issues with activist websites giving advice on how to beat/sue CEA's. AMG asked that local authorities work closely with their advice centers to ensure that the 'troll' websites do not appear before their legitimate websites in internet searches.</p> <p>There was an issue about multiple visits for multiple charges. It is important that you deal with all charges in one visit.</p> <p>AMG asked for feedback from all CEA's to get actual evidence from real cases. She has also agreed with CIVEA that their members will declare cases so that MoJ can take action.</p> <p>There has been criticism that some agents use ANPR instead of visiting a property. Please note that you cannot charge fees if you use ANPR <u>without</u> visiting the property.</p> <p>However there have been fewer queries about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees • The entry of the CEA • What the CEA is able to lift. • Complaints about CEA's <p>AMG spoke about the government review of the regulations. It is important that all CEA's get involved. Let AMG know if or where the regulations aren't working. Regs can be amended, the Act will be more difficult. Action: all CEA's to ensure that they feed back to AMG where they encounter difficulty with the regulations. (tce.enforcementreform@justice.gov.uk)</p> <p>There was a discussion about the use of 'in house bailiffs' by local authorities in order to save money. This a misnomer however because bailiff action is free to the authority so no money is actually saved. It is however also a political decision.</p> <p>Broadly speaking the regulations have achieved what set out to do, with the exception of a few teething problems. Suggested that a major review could be best in 3-5 years. This was agreed, as 1 year would not give time for cases to be resolved.</p> <p>There was a side question about the definition of 'highway'. This is especially relevant when a vehicle that has been identified for uplift is stored on a neighbour's highway. AMG advised to make an application because this is an evasion of enforcement</p> <p>There was also an observation that the Police Service requires</p>	<p>All CEA's</p> <p>All CEA's</p> <p>All CEA's</p>
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	<p><i>training to update them in the law and the regulations.</i></p> <p><i>There was a discussion about the various reviews of the regulations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In year 1 MoJ will look at anything that must be changed in the regulations, and add guidance.</i> • <i>In the longer term they will be looking at larger impacts such as forced entries, fine collections, collection rates and whether the complaints process has increased costs – are courts receiving more complaints?</i> <p><i>There was a discussion about procuring the enforcement service, and an agreement that the process is difficult because local authorities do not have an understanding of the procurement of enforcement services. It was proposed that the YPO framework would be useful and that guidance from the BPA for procuring enforcement services would also be useful. Action</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrating Excellence in Parking (PT/PS)</i> <i>PT delivered a presentation about a major BPA project proposing the development of standards across the membership including sector specific voluntary charters and a Professionalism in Parking Award (PIPA).</i></p> <p><i>There followed a discussion to gain member feedback about the proposal. The feedback will be combined with opinions from other membership meetings. The BPA will use the feedback to present a report to the BPA Board that will describe the next phase of the project.</i></p> <p><i>The Future of BESIG (PS)</i> <i>Currently the name of this special interest group and the Electoral College is incorrect as it includes the name of bailiffs. Therefore it was proposed that the name be changed to better reflect the new title of 'Civil Enforcement Agents. It was also suggested that the group's remit be widened to take in Debt Collectors as well.</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed to invite Debt Collectors to future meetings, because the two sectors are involved in broadly similar fields (Debt Collectors are involved in the compliance phase of the CEA process in the unregulated sector) and the two sectors could potentially learn from each other. Action</i></p> <p><i>It was also suggested that local authorities also be invited as a matter of course.</i></p> <p><i>It was proposed that the group be called the Enforcement Agencies' Special Interest Group and this was agreed. Action.</i></p> <p><i>Future meetings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meet twice next year.</i> 	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
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- *Invite external stakeholders:*
 - *DCLG*
 - *LGO*
 - *ICO*
 - *DVLA*
 - *Lobbying Groups*
 - *CAB*
- *Present feedback from BPA working groups:*
 - *TEC*
 - *DVLA*
- *Potentially meet in Northampton and/or Birmingham*
- *That BPA develops another 'Supersig'*

Any other business

It was suggested and agreed that Mike Marrs should be confirmed as Vice Chair for the group.

Meeting closed.