



## TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

JULY 2015  
NEWSLETTER 3-1



The start of summer - and our '3<sup>rd</sup> Year' - has been really busy for *Truckers' Toilets UK*. No deckchair time so far this month! Here's your chance to catch up on the latest news!

**The Road Haulage Association:** The London tube strike made Gill even more determined to make the meeting with Jack Semple, Director of Policy at the RHA and it was well worth the effort. It was an excellent opportunity to talk through the aims of *TTUK* and the problems experienced by drivers. It was also helpful for Gill to learn about the situation from a different perspective and discuss possible ways of making improvements. The meeting ended on a very positive note – look out for updates.



**Truck & Driver:** The Summer 2015 edition of *T&D* included an article highlighting our Ed's frustration with being pushed from the Department of Health back to the Department for Transport. Remember this last month? Of course you do. There was an article about this in *Commercial Motor*. It was good to see it appear in another magazine and with another readership base. [Thanks to reporter Chris Tindall]



**Department for Transport:** Not satisfied with the response from the Department of Health which suggested contacting the Department for Transport as mentioned above, Gill wrote in more detail to her MP, Grant Shapps. He in turn wrote to the new Roads Minister – and *TTUK* received a response from Andrew Jones MP: (1) That it '*is simple common sense and courtesy that drivers should be allowed to use the facilities at the premises they visit...*' (2) That security might be one of the problems making the issue '*less straightforward*' (3) that Mr Jones has asked HSE if anything can be done and (4) that he will let us know the outcome. Mr Jones also added that he'd '*received representations from the haulage industry about the lack of suitable roadside facilities and he has asked officials to work with the industry 'to see what can be done.....'*' A very promising start!



**Unite:** *TTUK* is pleased to report that Unite the Union has also been pursuing the Department for Transport to discuss roadside facilities and Adrian Jones, National Road Transport Officer will be meeting with Andrew Jones MP in September.



**HSE information:** In the meantime our supporter Sam sent in details from paragraph 127 from *HSG136 A guide to Workplace Transport Safety published September 2014*. This had been sent to Sam directly from



HSE as a result of a query on the topic of toilet access for drivers. The relevant section reads: *When deliveries and collections are made, loading and unloading areas should: ..... have a safe area for drivers to wait that allows them to rest between driving shifts, especially if they may be waiting for several hours, with easy and safe access to toilet, washing and refreshment facilities and shelter in case of bad weather.* The email ended with a comment: *Health and safety should not be used as a reason for failing to provide him [sic] with safe and easy access to toilet facilities.*

**Legalities:** A colleague and supporter of *TTUK* who is well versed in technical law and toilet provision has informed *TTUK* that toilets for drivers at any delivery point are no longer an optional extra! The HSE Transport Guide refers to any place that drivers deliver to, including distribution centres. These



are now considered shared workplaces, and employers have to provide the necessary welfare facilities, whether it is using existing staff toilets or providing a separate drivers' toilet. In addition the design of all shopping centre (or other) delivery yards now has to have driver WCs. Apparently however, some planners including architects are still not aware of this new requirement, which should be automatically raised at the briefing stage. *TTUK* will be following this up. Could this be a breakthrough?

**New Design Commission Inquiry:** Not missing an opportunity Gill has responded to a call for evidence and managed to include access to toilets for lorry drivers into all of the answers to the questions!



**Blue Arrow:** *TTUK* was included in a telephone conference on 3 July with *TTUK*'s partners Blue Arrow, the Skills Policy Manager from the Freight Transport Association and the Director of Policy also from the FTA. The Blue Arrow petition was discussed and the Minimum Standards document produced by *TTUK* was also of interest together with the research paper on dehydration. [*TTUK* has not received any feedback from the FTA at the time of preparing this newsletter]



**UKIP:** Gill accepted an invitation from Jill Seymour, UKIP MEP [Transport Spokesman] to join her and her assistant Peter on a visit to Wendy Priestley who runs *MotherTruckers: The Lady Truckers Club* and her husband Les who



teaches HGV drivers. It was a fantastic opportunity to ask questions about toilet access and get straight replies. Discussing and sharing information with Jill was also useful and both Jill and Gill learned a great deal from Wendy and Les who have been

there and done it! The visit also included a trip in an HGV [highlight for Gill!!!!] and a thought provoking chat with the owner of a truckstop. An excellent day and warm thanks to Wendy and Les for making us all so welcome and to Jill and Peter for including our *TTUK* leader in the visit. *TTUK* will report on any feedback received.

**Keep calm!** Toilet refusals continue. In fact one in particular recently sparked a flurry of anger on one of the Facebook forums. The reason given by the company concerned was that they had had several 'unsavoury' incidents and drivers were, as a consequence, directed to ASDA if they needed a toilet. *TTUK* can understand both the resentment of the drivers and the frustration of this company and whilst it flies in the face of legal requirements it does highlight the need for reasonable, affordable solutions to this problem. Whilst it is only a few drivers who behave badly it is enough to hinder the efforts of *TTUK* to get decent facilities for lorry drivers – especially vexing when we are getting so much closer to our goal.



**Toilet Talks** Taking place in Manchester on 29 June this half day event featured talks on toilet research, the history of toilets and the design and role of public toilets. Unable to attend but keen not to miss out, *TTUK* emailed the organiser who was very pleased to learn of our *TTUK* campaign. We are now on their mailing list and they are on ours. So we look forward to updates.



**Design:** The mention of a project related to toilet design at the Toilet Talks event was of particular interest – particularly as *TTUK* is thinking about roadside facilities. *TTUK* contacted the speaker who was pleased to learn more about the issues and thought that students may be able to consider these in the project. Meanwhile, *TTUK* is now exploring possible ways that toilets can be improved to reduce misuse and be more suitable for out of town locations. We have already been in touch with a manufacturer who is very interested in what we are trying to achieve. More news as it becomes available.



Have you signed the Drive with Pride petition yet?

[www.tinyurl.com/drivewithpride](http://www.tinyurl.com/drivewithpride)

If not, why not sign it **NOW!**

**TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK**

[www.facebook.com/TTUKcampaign](http://www.facebook.com/TTUKcampaign)



Next issue of the **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be August 2015

*Gill Kemp*