



MINUTES OF THE 'CHARGEUK POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP' MEETING

1 August 2023, 11:00-12:00

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Letter to PM to be sent, along with a press release and media engagement	Secretariat

ITEM ONE

Welcome and Introductions

1. VICKY READ, the Chair of PCG, introduced the meeting noting that it was a broad update on all policy areas.

ITEM TWO

Weekly Update

2. DAN SIMPSON began by giving an update on the individual policy items. Dan began by thanking members who provided feedback on the barriers request by the initial deadline of 31 July. If members wish to still send over feedback, they were asked to inform the Secretariat of their projected timeline for this.
3. DAN SIMPSON noted that OZEV's next Public Chargepoint Regulations reliability technical working group was scheduled for 2nd August with ChargeUK in attendance. Prior to the workshop, ChargeUK had requested for broader feedback on regulations.
4. An update on the RCE was also provided, with DAN flagging that ChargeUK was awaiting an update on this from OZEV next week.
5. DAN SIMPSON noted that OZEV has informed us that the ZEMO terminology work was no longer ahead in its current form, but would be taken in-house by OZEV. VICKY READ asked whether OZEV had indicated a timeframe regarding this and whether it was worth ChargeUK doing any prep on this. Members agreed that this was a complex project which would require some preparatory work, but that it wasn't currently a priority.
6. DAN SIMPSON spoke on the ZEV Mandate and the possibility of a decision being made by the Prime Minister soon. Due to this possibility, it is an ideal time for ChargeUK to issue a letter to the Prime Minister regarding ZEV and his commitment to the 2030 rollout.

ITEM THREE

Letter to the PM

7. HARRY METHLEY spoke on the merits of issuing an open letter to the Prime Minister, noting the recent coverage on the 2030 kick back within government as a key reason. Given the fact the road to 2030 is more open to delay than previously anticipated, it is the appropriate time to send an open letter to the Prime Minister as it allows ChargeUK to reframe the narrative into a positive light and show the industry's appreciation to 2030 commitment.
8. JAMES MCKEMEY questioned how much flexibility has been measured into ZEV and noted his concern in saying that the £6bn investment figure is at risk. If the decision then goes out against ChargeUK, ChargeUK needs to re-consider what we wish to say as an industry.
9. BEN WALKER asked whether the open letter will be signed off from members or as ChargeUK as a trade association. HARRY METHLEY confirmed that the letter will be signed off from ChargeUK but will include members' logos.
10. BEN WALKER questioned what ChargeUK's strategy will be if the decision doesn't go in the way we anticipate.
11. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted that the key point was that nobody has yet to land the point that the petrol and diesel "ban" is not a "ban". The letter must stress that any delay will be negative and that the 2030 date is very important to the industry.
12. ROSANNA TURNHAM noted her apprehension about sending an open letter to the Prime Minister as by doing so, ChargeUK are entering themselves into a hot political debate. ROSANNA questioned the reasons why the letter should be sent publicly at this time.
13. VICKY READ noted that members need to discuss what is at stake, the pros and cons of an open letter and the balance between a positive and negative narrative. VICKY questioned whether a closed letter would make it easier for the PM to make his decision.
14. KARL ANDERS asked for clarification on the key message of the letter, noting that it needs to be flipped around to focus on protecting jobs to position the industry as 'the good guys'.
15. SIMON KENDREW noted that it was important to stress that the £6bn investment, could be at risk if commitments are not maintained.
16. HARRY METHLEY noted the secondary point should focus on the second-hand car market and how affordability will increase for consumers over time. This is the merit of implementing changes now as opposed to two years before the ban.
17. JAYNESH PATEL agreed that the letter should be open and spoke on the importance of maintaining a positive narrative and entering the debate now. An open letter will allow for focus on how without ZEV, there is no charging.

18. BEN WALKER asked whether there is anything positive that ChargeUK can do to engage with Labour to counter what the Prime Minister is doing. DAN SIMPSON noted that making it a cross-party issue will make the government less likely to be on ChargeUK's side.
19. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY noted that the biggest barrier to uptake is charge points and went to question whether ChargeUK have latest information or statistics and the demand relating to this. DAN SIMPSON suggested looking at SMMT statistics as this was a good indication.
20. RANDAL SMITH noted that the confusion is that a lot of the media refer to devices and ChargeUK need to consider referring to charge points as connectors instead. This changes the statistics in a more positive way.
21. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted her support for an open letter stating that this was ChargeUK's opportunity for a right to reply.
22. ROSANNA TURNHAM noted that she would like to see a more positive letter before approval.
23. JAMES MCKEMEY spoke on how it needs to be clear that ChargeUK are trying to develop charging infrastructure and ZEV gives the industry the certainty to do this.
24. JAMES MILLAR spoke through the main press targets, noting them as the Times, Telegraph, Bloomberg, Reuters and Politico. This is in addition to industry press who will also be sent the press release.
25. MARTINA HUNT asked whether it would be sensible to sense check how the letter will land with the PM. It was then agreed that it is the perfect opportunity for a right to reply and ChargeUK should go ahead with publishing the letter.
26. Members agreed to the publishing of an open letter with a press release. This was circulated to all members later the same day.

ANNEX A ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Letter to PM to be sent, along with a press release and media engagement	Secretariat

Attendees:

- Vicky Read, Connected Kerb
- Ben Walker, SSE
- Karl Anders, Mer UK
- Natasha Mahmoudian, Tesla
- Rosanna Turnham, bp Pulse
- Simon Kendrew, Equans
- Wendy Gallagher, ESB
- Sam Hazeldine, Gridserve
- Martina Hunt, Gridserve
- Adrian-Fielden Gray, Be Ev
- Randal Smith, Urban Fox
- James McKemey, Pod Point
- Agnese Chiesa, Believ
- Laura Hardy, Gridserve
- Jaynesh Patel, Chargepoint

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

- Dan Simpson
- Harry Methley
- James Millar
- Olivia Ryan
- Krisha Indrakumar