



MINUTES OF THE 'CHARGEUK POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP' MEETING
11 July 2023, 11:00-12:00

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Comms workshop	Connect
2	RCF Paper	Connect
3	ChargeUK/Ofgem meeting	Connect
4	Draft comms lines on VAT	Connect
5	Create RTFO subgroup in order to create brief for research agencies	Connect

ITEM ONE

Welcome and Introductions

1. VICKY READ opened the discussion and noted the topic of discussion for this meeting was RTFO and VAT.
2. HARRY METHLEY reminded members of the competition policy.

ITEM TWO

Weekly Update

3. VICKY READ began by giving an update on the individual policy items. It was noted that the paper by EOW on RCF will be issued ahead of next week's meeting which will be focused on the Rapid Charging Fund.
4. VICKY READ first updated on barriers, noting that the data request on barriers will be issued to members by end of day.
5. VICKY READ asked for members' views on the news that Government will shortly lay a Statutory Instrument which gives CPOs permitted development rights for some charge point installations - to what extent is this helpful to members?
6. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY noted that the initial reaction was that it was good, but it is narrower than it seems. It was reported three to four months ago that the Government would remove planning barriers, but this hasn't been followed through. There needs to be something broader in terms of what the government implement.
7. TOM HURST noted his agreement and flagged that there is no impact on private development at all. There was consensus amongst members.

8. VICKY READ noted that although it seems that this development is less significant than what the Government had indicated, ChargeUK should prepare a supportive line flagging that greater planning reform is still needed.
9. DAN RILEY highlighted that ChargeUK should focus on easy wins in the planning sector. Although the consultation was narrow, it ultimately does what it said it was going to do.
10. VICKY READ followed with an update on consumer experience. It was flagged that update on regulations are expected imminently, and that ChargeUK were meeting with OZEV later on Tuesday.
11. Following ChargeUK's attendance at the Technical Working Group on guidance, members were updated on the session. It was noted that ChargeUK need to be able to determine the best way and how to engage – the PCG will discuss consumer issues in two weeks and there will be time dedicated to develop this further.
12. VICKY READ updated on accessibility, noting this week's meeting with Motability and their plans on PAS1899. It was noted that they are planning to set up a technical working group on how the standard is currently being applied ahead of the revision of the standard in 2024 (two years from publication). It was noted that this will also be discussed at the PCG meeting on consumer experience on 25 July.
13. VICKY READ noted that ZEV Mandate announcements are not expected soon.
14. VICKY READ updated on last week's comms discussion, noting that a workshop on comms will be scheduled shortly.
15. DAN RILEY flagged an AOB point on Ofgem's implementation of the Targeted Charging Review. The competition policy was re-flagged, and DAN RILEY noted the review will have significant impact on higher powered charging costs which will be reflected in energy bills from April onwards. The issue with the review is with how it is being implemented and there is a potential for work to help facilitate a change and push for a reassessment.
16. JAMES MCKEMEY spoke on how costs were front-loaded until there was a lot used. He noted that when speaking to Ofgem, there was no noise from competitors that noted this as an issue.
17. DAN RILEY noted the model was agreed in 2021 and came into force this year after a consultation in 2019. It was flagged that it was making investments riskier and that Gridserve have supposedly been involved in this issue on the potential to make sites uneconomic and how to change it.
18. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted her interest in seeing how this will interact with changes in April and whether there will be an impact on connecting demand assets.

19. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY added his support, noting that standing charges can get quadrupled.
20. DAN RILEY clarified that they would interact and it would change calculation. It was noted that ChargeUK would find an appropriate contact at Ofgem and get a meeting in the diary.

ITEM THREE

VAT

21. VICKY READ noted that NICK DE MESTRE, the member leading on the topic, was unable to attend this meeting at a short notice but had shared his updated with VICKY so that she could relay to the Group. VICKY opened the discussion on VAT by noting that ChargeUK wishes for VAT on public charging to be equalised with private charging at 5%.
22. VICKY READ flagged that one route to achieve this aim was through the work being undertaken by EY and Deloitte with individual CPOs to challenge HMRC's current approach – the key issue here is what the definition of a premise is, how it is applied and whether charging points count as a premise.
23. VICKY READ explained that NICK DE MESTRE'S proposal is that although this remains an important route to address this issue, it is not possible for ChargeUK as an entity to be actively engaged in this work – this does not preclude individual members from engaging and ChargeUK will keep dialogue open with EY and Deloitte.
24. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN warned that the Government is looking at levelling rates the other way and can't see it going down. The policy point should be why it should be lower.
25. HARRY METHLEY noted standing lines will be updated to make that clear.
26. VICKY READ spoke on the policy route with HMT and the FairCharge letter about passing savings on to consumers. Following an introduction from FairCharge, ChargeUK recently met with officials at HMT to understand their perspective – from this meeting it is clear that there is no significant support for making a change to VAT policy within HMT. Regardless, FairCharge are likely to approach CPOs and ChargeUK to sign a letter.
27. HARRY METHLEY agreed with analysis and noted that due to the competition policy prohibiting discussion of pricing, a letter will not be something that ChargeUK will be signing.
28. DAN RILEY agreed and noted that this is unlikely to change and ChargeUK can better use their resources elsewhere, and that a change in government would be a better opportunity.
29. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN suggested that ChargeUK take a step back from VAT and noted that a better route in inclusion of electricity is RTFO as it can help consumers and isn't costly to HMT.

30. VICKY READ asked Connect to draft external comms lines on VAT but noted that proactive lobbying on VAT should not be a ChargeUK priority.

ITEM THREE RTFO

31. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN explained RTFO to members, noting key points:

- The aim is to persuade the Government to include electricity in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, a market-based mechanism aimed at reducing transport emissions.
- Most EU countries have already included electricity in their version of RTFO, but the UK so far has not.
- Including electricity to create a significant revenue stream for CPOs, support investment and allow consumer prices to come down.
- It will not increase cost to the consumer as is believed.
- Including electricity could decrease cost with increased supply.
- 70% of biodiesel is imported.
- Home charging can be included.

32. DAN RILEY noted that including electricity is a fairly nominal impact and will not be a big change for the consumer.

33. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN clarified that we can point to other markets at this point, e.g., Germany, Netherlands and Austria, where the biofuels market has not been destroyed. It was noted that there may be a need for external analysis on this.

34. VICKY READ asked members for their thoughts and whether there was any dissent on this matter. Many members showed their support and there was no dissent. The next steps would be to understand how we can communicate to the government and to consumers.

35. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted that the Minister has received advice on this from Tesla for looking at other options such as greenhouse gas regulations. Natasha noted that they have pushed a lot in this area, but more work needs to be done.

36. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted that in terms of strategy, there needs to be a focus on how improving investment can put more chargers in the ground, the reduction in the cost of charging and how the consumer will win either way. NATASHA noted that there needs to be concrete numbers on this and that although quotes from agencies have been high (Oxford Economics quoted £100k) a report needs to be done over the summer for a launch in the autumn.

37. DAN RILEY suggested talking to Cornwall Insight.

38. JAMES MCKEMEY flagged it would be good to use charge point numbers and noted that although the Minister may not be keen, it could be a good funding idea for Labour to say how they will speed up roll out.

39. VICKY READ suggested a working group to be created and for Connect to develop a brief to be provided to agencies.

40. RICHARD STOBART asked for AC/DC to be modelled separately in the scope. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted that model put forward should be regarding home and public charging.

41. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN noted keenness to talk about trucks and truck charging.

ANNEX A ACTIONS

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Attendees:

- Andreas Atkins, Ionity
- James McKemey, Pod Point
- Jarrod Birch, Shell Recharge
- Karl Anders, Mer UK
- Martina Hunt, Gridserve
- Natasha Mahmoudian, Tesla
- Dan Riley, bp Pulse
- Richard Stobart, Char.gy
- Simon Kendrew, Equans
- Vicky Read, Connect Kerb
- Wendy Gallagher, ESB
- Ben Walker, SSE
- Randal Smith, Urban Fox
- Tom Hurst, Fastned
- Adrian Fielden-Gray, Be Ev

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

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