



MINUTES OF THE CHARGEUK POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
5 December 2023, 11:00-12:00

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	To share a RCF discussion paper	Secretariat

ITEM ONE
WEEKLY UPDATE

1. VICKY READ opened the discussion, noting today's topic was supposed to be on RCF but the Government has not announced anything yet. HARRY METHLEY flagged the competition policy.
2. DAN SIMPSON updated on various policy streams, including the upcoming launch of the RCF pilot fund and consultation. It has been indicated that the opening of the main fund and the consultation is imminent. The Secretariat will be meeting Richard Bruce at DfT this afternoon and will report back to members following the meeting. The Secretariat are also aware that the new DfT Minister is convening a roundtable and we have encouraged them to invite as many CPOs as possible. The Secretariat will be attending and will report back to members. From the point the application of the pilot opens, it will be open for 8 weeks across the Christmas break. The consultation will be open for 10 weeks, also across the Christmas break. The consultation period is longer to ensure that people can feedback on the application process via the consultation. The Secretariat will circulate a RCF discussion note before the Christmas period.
3. DAN updated on the 'Accelerating Rollout' report, noting that this was published last week. The Secretariat are meeting with No 10 Delivery Unit this afternoon and with new Minister Anthony Browne MP tomorrow morning to speak them through the report. In parallel to this, OZEV have organised the first of their CPO connections workshop for next Monday. We will get in touch to see if this invite can be extended to other members. So far, there has been a good level of response from a range of stakeholders regarding the report, including Government and DNOs.
4. DAN updated on CX and terminology noting that the next ChUK Terminology meeting is this Wednesday.
5. It was noted that the meeting with the Scottish Cabinet Secretary has now been rescheduled for January. The LEVI CPO Group will next meet on 15 January. The meeting with the DfT Permanent Secretaries is currently scheduled for 19 December.
6. VICKY READ noted that the ChargeUK On-Street group met last week too. The minutes and actions for this meeting will be circulated shortly.

ITEM TWO

LOOKING AHEAD

7. VICKY READ opened the discussion to discuss possible priorities / topics for next year.
8. TOM HURST spoke about standing charges for grid connections. This is something that needs to be mediated by the Secretariat as it underpins pricing, but it is now a bigger deal in comparison to what it was. It must impact the majority of our membership.
9. DAN SIMPSON noted conversations with Ofgem in the run up to the barriers report, flagging that we were led to believe that there would be changes happening in the New Year in 'Plan for Drivers'. Certainly, for early part of next year, standing charges should be on the agenda.
10. VICKY READ asked whether we need to get Ofgem if they are the people of interest. DAN clarified that Ofgem are the regulator, but they work against government legislation. VICKY also noted that the Exchequer Secretary was particularly interested in standing charges during the ChargeUK meeting last month. There is a possibility that pressure on HMT could be effective.
11. JAMES MCKEMEY questioned whether ChargeUK would want to pull health and safety data together.
12. DAN SIMPSON spoke on the point of convening within members outside of this group on points of particular interest and supporting a forum for health and safety leads from members companies can definitely be followed up with. It may be decided that data collection is useful in this instance.
13. KARL ANDERS noted that there was a meeting a few weeks ago which focused on this, so this is something worth looking into. JAMES MCKEMEY noted that if anyone is doing it for the industry, it should be ChargeUK.
14. VICKY READ spoke about EV fires and insurance / fire risk.
15. RICHARD STOBART questioned about VAT and whether this is a parked issue or worth re-pushing for. VICKY noted that she doesn't think it will be progressing anytime soon. DAN SIMPSON noted that the Government are unlikely to equalise VAT, but it is still ChargeUK policy to equalise VAT.
16. JAMES MCKEMEY questioned whether this is something we need to tactically push whilst there is momentum.
17. DAN SIMPSON noted that the advice is that we are treating commerciality as a package, and we have looked at the commerciality of a site and whether consumer experience is affordable - VAT is part of this package.

18. DAN also noted that engagement has been focused on Government this year. There has been less Parliamentary engagement, and it is worth looking at reviewing this next year, and to do more engagement with committees and APPGs. This will be important as we go into an election year.
19. MARTINA HUNT noted that election year should be one of the key topics we think about. ChargeUK need to think about and how we are positioning ourselves with the different parties and keep an eye on what is effective.
20. VICKY READ spoke about the Labour Party and how we progress engagement with them in an effective way.
21. DAN SIMPSON noted that the Party will focus on the cost for consumers and geographical spread. It may not be a campaigning issue but may be a governing issue. The focus right now will be an educational piece and discouraging them from saying anything too negative.

ANNEX A ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	To share a RCF discussion paper	Secretariat

Attendees:

Vicky Read, Connected Kerb
 Fay Clarke, Shell
 Oli Freeling-Wilkinson, Urban Fox
 Simon Kendrew, Equans
 Tom Hurst, Fastned
 Martina Hunt, Gridserve
 Sam Hazeldine, Gridserve
 Liv Gomez, EVC
 Richard Stobart, char.gy
 James McKemey, PodPoint
 Karl Anders, Mer
 Laura Hardy, Gridserve
 Agnese Chiesa, Believ
 Randal Smith, Urban Fox

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

Dan Simpson
 Harry Methley
 James Millar
 Krisha Indrakumar

