



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

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Discussion on European structure model	Martina/Natasha
2	Comms workshop to be organised	Connect
3	RCF Paper to be circulated for comment	Connect
4	Paper on consumer experience to be circulated	Connect
5	RTFO scoping meeting	Connect

ITEM ONE

Welcome and Introductions

1. DAN SIMPSON chaired the meeting on behalf of VICKY READ, the Chair of PCG, who sent her apologies for her absence. The competition policy, which prohibits discussion of pricing, was noted.

ITEM TWO

Weekly Update

2. DAN SIMPSON began by giving an update on the individual policy items. Today's main item of discussion was noted to be on the Rapid Charging Fund.
3. DAN SIMPSON began the update by speaking on barriers, noting that the data request on barriers was issued to all members last week. Members were reminded to feedback before the end of July if they wish to do so.
4. DAN SIMPSON updated on consumer experience and accessibility, speaking on ChargeUK's attendance at OZEV's Technical Working Group on reliability. The main issue with this policy was noted as the government's plan to update technical guidance before it comes into force, essentially removing the implementation period. It is expected that the only change will be on reliability, but this is not certain. An update will be issued following a further meeting this week.
5. DAN RILEY asked whether ChargeUK will be doing a co-ordination exercise on this. DAN RILEY noted that members are going through technical guidance themselves and can provide feedback.
6. DAN SIMPSON noted that feedback was welcome from members. JAMES MCKEMEY noted that anything installed post regs has to be contact ready for the regs start point.

DAN RILEY clarified that safety valves should also be included, allowing for a better process than the undertakings that were part of smart regs.

7. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN updated on last week's discussion topic: RTFO and VAT. It was noted that during last week's meeting, some members expressed interested in setting up a scoping meeting to discuss RTFO. This meeting will be arranged by the Secretariat and members should let the Secretariat know if they wish to be involved.
8. HARRY METHLEY updated on the ZEV Mandate, noting that there was no progress due to blockages from the Department of Business and Trade. It is unlikely there will be an update before recess, which commences next week. HARRY asked members if they agreed that ChargeUK should issue a comment noting how the association feels about the mandate and its importance. Members noted their agreement, and a tweet was subsequently drafted.
9. DAN SIMPSON informed members that they will receive a discussion document on proactive comms and a future meeting date to discuss this shortly.

ITEM THREE RCF

10. HARRY METHLEY thanked members who contributed to RCF discussions and noted their effort in attempting to bring alignment to the policy despite disagreements. It was noted that although members agree on the issues and problems of RCF, such as its timing, there is disagreement on what happens next. Today's discussion was intended to broadly understand members' views on what they think should happen next and what ChargeUK should do to help facilitate this.
11. DAN RILEY asked whether there is any indication as to what the next step regarding the pilot is, or if there is any intent from the government in going ahead with this. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY similarly asked for clarification on the status and how much money has been allocated.
12. DAN SIMPSON noted that the public position from the government was that all current working groups have been put on halt. The intended launch date for the pilot scheme has also not been met. The ultimate reason for the delay is the government's intention to understand the questions published by the CMA. DAN noted that there is no clear indication as to what is happening next and there is a possibility that there could be a further consultation.
13. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN warned that ChargeUK do not want to be dividing internally when discussing policy and the ultimate aim is to co-opt around an idea that will provide the best deliverable outcome.
14. ANDREAS ATKINS noted that the intent behind RCF is correct, but it is important to consider that not all MSAs operate the same way – especially since some are landlords for example. When discussions are being held on RCF, they should be split into MSA and non-MSA locations allowing for this distinction.

15. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY noted the importance of not over-complicating this and the ultimate goal is to think about the end user.
16. MARTINA HUNT mentioned that Gridserve are on MSA sites and noted that they have had a lot of grid applications come through that are commercially viable. RCF, as a result, should remain focused on the objectives and any policy that comes into play. MARTINA noted that suggestions for a simpler MRVA type of structure was also noted. MARTINA re-iterated members' comments, noting that if ChargeUK cannot completely align on a perspective, the group should provide the government suggestions for better ways to engage with the industry.
17. DAN RILEY seconded this, noting that there does not need to be a huge agreement but just consensus around some areas.
18. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN questioned what classifies as commercially viable.
19. MARTINA HUNT noted that there are other options that ChargeUK should be looking at, but commercially viable is always an issue when any subsidy is brought up. Ultimately, there needs to be agreement that oversized connections is a waste of taxpayer money. MARTINA noted that the most pragmatic way to move forward is to copy the European scheme.
20. TOM HURST and JAMES MCKEMEY both noted that it was important that ChargeUK does not revert back to square one, as the group could be blamed for the funding for the charging on the motorway.
21. ADRIAN FIELDEN-GRAY noted that when looking at the cost difference in bringing sufficient power for charging two different sites, the focus should not be on alleviating the difference but instead needs to be on the site that is struggling with power as opposed to the one that already works.
22. MARTINA HUNT and NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN agreed to go through the European model together to see where they can find alignment.
23. MARTINA HUNT questioned how open OZEV will be towards changing the structure after four years of work on a different structure.
24. ANDREAS ATKINS noted that OZEV are aware of the European models as Ionity have presented the model to them.
25. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN spoke on how the government's commitment to digging once is the issue and should not be the policy.
26. ANDREAS ATKINS acknowledged that there is sense in minimising cost to zero.
27. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN clarified that ChargeUK should be against the digging once principle due to grid size connections. It was noted that if the European model is co-opted, the way to control this would be to have different tranches of applications.

ITEM THREE SUMMARY

28. DAN SIMPSON summarised the main points discussed by members and noted the key issues.

- The key issue, as noted, is the lack of clarity on what the Government will be doing next.
- ChargeUK have made key progress in a number of areas and disagreement surrounding RCF should not limit this progress. As a result, there are some broad principles that the group can agree on.
- The RCF paper will be recirculated back for comment. If the government do approach ChargeUK for their views, the group will then something viable to provide them. It will also prevent any progress delays.

29. DAN SIMPSON concluded the meeting by noting that next week's discussion will be on consumer experience.

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
- Rosanna Turnham, bp Pulse
- Richard Stobart, Char.gy
- Simon Kendrew, Equans
- Nick de Mestre,
- Wendy Gallagher, ESB
- Tom Hurst, Fastned
- Adrian Fielden-Gray, Be Ev
- Steve Myall, Be Ev
- Laura Hardy, Gridserve
- Jaynesh Patel, ChargePoint
- Jodie Brown, Shell Recharge
- Agnese Chiesa, Believ
- Marie-France Vanheel, Be Ev

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

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