



MINUTES OF THE CHARGEUK POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

13 February 2024, 11:00-12:00

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Members to feedback on Connection Actions Plan and PAS1899 Review Group meeting one (interpretation).	Members

ITEM ONE WEEKLY UPDATE

1. **DAN SIMPSON** reminded members that the **AGM** will take place next week. Reps will need to send in who will be attending the meeting so invitations can go out. Each member will be allowed one in-person representative, but members of the PCG will be able to dial into the meeting.

There will be drinks after the AGM for all, even those who didn't attend the AGM in person. Final papers are being circulated for the meeting, and the final draft for the policy workplan will be circulated this week before the meeting.

2. Updating on **RCF**, **DAN SIMPSON** noted that he has spoken with those involved. There will be nothing coming back in the immediate future, but it will be monitored.
3. With regards to **consumer experience**, **DAN SIMPSON** confirmed that the next meeting will be on Friday to discuss the FAQ doc. He reminded that if there are specific questions that anyone wants flagged in advance, to please let the secretariat know.
4. **DAN SIMPSON** noted the first meeting of the **implementation review group**, and that Comments are coming back. He reminded that if there are any further comments for the meeting to please get them in. The first meeting will be on interpretation.

He also noted that the **terminology group** and **on-street group** meetings will both take place next week.
5. **DAN SIMPSON** highlighted that we have had a request from Faircharge to sign an initial draft of the **letter on VAT**. It has been noted that this was outside existing agreed language. Therefore, it has been circulated to members for comment.
6. RT agreed with assessment that it is line with Charge UK policy, but not on language. He asked if there is any scope to get the letter tweaked, and if it is intended to be an open letter or a private letter.

7. **DAN SIMPSON** confirmed it was intended as an open letter. He also confirmed that the steer we have had is they won't sign unless we sign. He confirmed that if another round of revisions is desired this can be facilitated.
8. MW asked for a copy of the letter, which **DAN SIMPSON** confirmed that he would forward.
9. OFW asked how the calculation of £40 million had been made in the letter. **DAN SIMPSON** assured that this will be provided, and that the group will go back and do another round. The letter will only be supported if relevant asks can be approved.
10. RT noted he hasn't heard anything on the **RTFO** since Ricardo giving an initial assessment. **DAN SIMPSON** replied that the position is being looked at, and that the call is that government should do a full call for evidence. Secondly, the **opposition manifesto looks more at RTFO than VAT**, so we need to nail down a clear set of asks.

ITEM TWO ACCELERATING THE INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE; FEB 2024 UPDATE

11. **DAN SIMPSON** stressed that if anyone is interested in sitting in any of these meetings on the document, to please let the secretariat know.

He noted immediate actions, mainly that local government has requested a roundtable, and that input is needed from colleagues.
12. With regards to the connections action plan, **DAN SIMPSON** noted that we are expecting a review document next month, and feedback will be presented to members before it goes back to government.

He noted specific feedback that in four key areas, local authorities are misinterpreting policy. These are;
 - Resident consultation
 - Accessibility
 - Reliability
 - Health and safety
13. **DAN SIMPSON** highlighted that the government have identified seven action areas; and that we have engaged them through 3 workshops. We don't yet endorse all their actions in these areas, but the broad areas give us enough scope to take our points forward.
14. **DAN SIMPSON** noted that the feedback we have received on these areas so far is that;
 - That energisation of ChargePoint assets point. Members have said that this is too crude to use.
 - Increasing the accessibility of the offer process. We have responded saying that we need to clarify this.
 - Standing charge points – we welcome this.

- Providing forward look on ChargePoint investment to DNO's – we accept but note that government should play an active role in ensuring viability.
 - Wayleaves – we should commit to exploring the points mentioned in the plan, noting concerns below.
15. With regards to land rights – **DAN SIMPSON** noted that this is not what will make a difference today, what will make a difference is;
 - DNO acceptance of precedent lease forms.
 - DNO acceptance of licenses where possible
 - DNO acceptance of access rights where already provided to a previous project.
 16. **JAMES MCKEMEY** raised concerns that the **DNOs** are requesting conflicting things, and that DNOs struggle processing applications yet are asking for more data.
 17. **DAN SIMPSON** replied that the reading is more that government are saying people complain that DNOs aren't good, but the excuse is nobody says what they're planning. It was confirmed that we will feedback to government on the piece by Monday, so members should get feedback in before then.
 18. **DAN SIMPSON** confirmed that **section 50 license consultation and permitted development consultations** are underway.
 19. RT asked if an evidence base was requested around current delays in the process and if we have that in the barriers report?
 20. **DAN SIMPSON** responded that some of these questions we can answer with data from the barrier review, and that Connect will happily take a steer on that. He also asked for feedback on the list of questions to CPO's on the proposals, and confirmed that Connect will circulate these questions, and would be grateful for feedback.
 21. **DAN SIMPSON** assured that we could give feedback on 3 metre upstands if anyone wants these built.
 22. **JAMES MCKEMEY** noted that there needs to be less bays per charger in non-domestic car parks.
 23. **DAN SIMPSON** summarised the proposals as positive and good for businesses, and good for communities due to the increase in uptake.
 24. **DAN SIMPSON** noted that we are principally looking for technical insights or evidence to support the consultations, however if anyone strongly disagrees this is welcome too.
He also noted the government progress here, and the need to push on to maximise the benefits.
 25. RT noted the good outcome from the barrier support, and how it shows success, considering that one of the main objectives was to influence planning.

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Attendees:

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

Dan Simpson
Harry Methley
Matthew Boyd
Krisha Indrakumar