



MINUTES OF THE CHARGEUK OPERATIONS MEETING
29 June 2023, 10:30-11:00

ACTIONS

ACTION	DETAILS	OWNER
1	Members to sign contract	All members
2	Note to be circulated on VAT/RTFO	Connect
3	Addition of RTFO to VAT paper	Connect

ITEM ONE

Update and Structure of Organisation

1. NICK DE MESTRE opened the discussion and noted that moving forward the main focus was to ensure that the process and structure of the group is in place by next AGM in February 2024.
2. NICK DE MESTRE noted that he has considered and evaluated other organisational structures, such as those in Europe, and this has been useful in understanding what the best format for ChargeUK is. Input and feedback from members on this is welcomed.
3. NICK DE MESTRE informed members that Pinsent Masons have offered to assist ChargeUK pro bono to help with organising the group's structure. As budget is quite tight, this will be beneficial and could free up to 25k for the group. Members agreed to secure the help of Pinsent Masons.
4. NICK DE MESTRE noted that two workshops will be held over the summer period to discuss organisation and membership. One session will aim to cover the membership structure and the concept of tiered membership and different pricing options. The second workshop will intend to cover structural elements that will help with the formulaic structure of the association. A paper will be shared at the sessions on the proposals for tiered membership.
5. NICK DE MESTRE reported that Pinsent Masons are currently in the process of drafting a note on structure and what ChargeUK need to consider moving forward.
6. JAMES MCKEMEY questioned why Pinsent Masons are willing to help pro bono.
7. NICK DE MESTRE clarified that Pinsent Masons had asked if ChargeUK had an associate membership option and whether there is an opportunity for them to join via this method. It was also noted that Pinsent Masons have an interest in the sector as they have an internal e-mobility team.

8. DAN SIMPSON spoke further on the current discussions surrounding tiered memberships. It was noted that although there is no formal agreement with Pinsent Masons regarding their membership, there is a possibility that a more formal relationship may develop.
9. VICKY READ questioned how the budget for Year 2 will affect membership structure discussions, and the rights and responsibilities that may come with different membership categories.
10. NICK DE MESTRE noted that ChargeUK will need to consider the budget at some point and discuss ideas such a top tier membership being more expensive than a bottom tier membership. If a structure is agreed in September, this will provide ChargeUK ample opportunity to put together pricing options.
11. DAN SIMPSON reverted back to the point on summer workshops, noting 27 July and 24 August as the dates for the sessions. ChargeUK Secretariat will confirm whether there are to be any changes to these dates.

ITEM TWO

VAT

12. NICK DE MESTRE opened the discussion surrounding VAT and the work that EY, Deloitte and FairCharge are doing with cases. Nick clarified that a note will be circulated on this topic.
13. NICK DE MESTRE spoke on the conclusion that ChargeUK is not in a position to do anything with HMRC, especially as ChargeUK does not exist as an independent entity. It was noted that the definition comes down to defining 'premises' and there are a range of views surrounding who benefits and who does not.
14. NICK DE MESTRE noted that there should be lines on the topic and that equalisation was agreed, but it is not an area that ChargeUK can definitively fight on as an organisation. Given the Government's budget, pushing on this could have unintended consequences. Nick also reported that FairCharge are keen to make the association commit to bringing down prices if VAT is reduced (*it was noted that this cannot be discussed due to competition law.*)
15. NATASHA MAHMOUDIAN spoke on VAT and RTFO, noting that HMT need to be made aware there is a lot of interest in this area (e.g., from EY, Deloitte and others). However, the best possible option in reducing the cost of charging will be via RTFO.
16. TANYA SINCLAIR expressed her agreement.
17. VICKY READ stated that the routes for ChargeUK through EY or FairCharge are limited but noted her agreement that engaging with the Government in reducing cost via RTFO could be an option.

18. NICK DE MESTRE also noted his agreement and requested that the VAT note have an RTFO addition to it.
19. DAN SIMPSON clarified that Connect will make this addition and drafts can be put to the Policy and Communications Group who can finalise their agreement.

ITEM THREE BUDGET

20. NICK DE MESTRE noted that although the budget was approved at the Board meeting, it will continue to evolve. Nick clarified that there is not much wiggle room with the current budget so formalising the structure of the association will be key.
21. DAN SIMPSON noted his thanks to members who have signed the contract and requested that those who haven't, to do so as soon as possible.
22. VICKY READ asked whether ChargeUK have approached everyone who wishes to be a member of the association. Vicky clarified that this would help in thinking ahead to the Year 2 budget and membership process.
23. DAN SIMPSON clarified that it is important to understand what membership looks like for Year 2 and noted Tanya Sinclair's point from the previous Board meeting that the Board should consider membership applications pro-rata for the rest of the year. The different tiered memberships and the plans for each of these categories should help navigate future memberships. Dan noted that from year 2 and beyond, cost should not be considered a barrier for new members to join.

ITEM FOUR AOB

24. NICK DE MESTRE noted that the RTFO/VAT paper will go into standard messaging.
25. JAMES MCKEMEY asked for clarification on ChargeUK's position on VAT and RTFO.
26. NICK DE MESTRE clarified that ChargeUK are supportive of VAT but wish to leave this where it is and will not be pursuing any more active lobbying.

ANNEX A ACTIONS

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Attendees:

1. Dee Humphries, Genie Point
2. Ian Johnston, Osprey
3. James McKemey, Pod Point
4. Jodie Brown, Shell
5. Natasha Mahmoudian, Tesla
6. Nick de Mestre, Raw Charging
7. Randal Smith, Urban Fox
8. Sam Hazeldine, Gridserve
9. Stuart Douglas, PoGo Charge
10. Tanya Sinclair, Chargepoint
11. Vicky Read, Connect Kerb

Secretariat for ChargeUK, Connect:

Dan Simpson
Harry Methley
Olivia Ryan
Krisha Indrakumar