

Mr Rob Gibson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

27 January 2016

Dear Rob

Further to your letter dated 09 December 2015 to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr McLeod has asked me to respond directly to your questions about electric vehicle (EV) rapid charging points.

The ChargePlace Scotland network now comprises over 500 publically available charge points (equating to around 1000 parking bays) hosted variously by local authorities and commercial premises. As mentioned in my previous correspondence, ChargePlace Scotland funded charge points make up the vast majority of infrastructure in Scotland - approximately 95%. The location and real time status of each of the ChargePlace Scotland chargers can be viewed on the website of our current charge point network operator – Charge your Car¹.

The ChargePlace Scotland network operator contract is currently going through a tendering process, and therefore the provider may change within the next 9 months.

Single Online Portal

In terms of a single online portal, the Scottish Government (SG) uploads charge point information to the National Charge-point Registry² (NCR). The UK Government created the NCR to provide information about publically funded charge points across the UK, with the intention of supporting the uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs). The NCR website does contain a map, however it is primarily a registry of static (i.e. does not show live status) charge point information.

¹ <http://chargeyourcar.org.uk/>

² www.national-charge-point-registry.uk/

Some of the NCR data is used by third parties to create charge point maps, including Zap-Map and Open Charge Map which are widely used by EV drivers, as well as the map found on our own Greener Scotland website³.

The SG originally began uploading charge point data to the NCR as a result of grant conditions for funding from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV); however it is something that we have continued to support, and all of the ChargePlace Scotland points can now be found on the database.

Any charge point network operator can upload information, enabling both public and privately funded charge points to be added. For example, the 12 Scottish charge points on the Ecotricity network are also on the system.

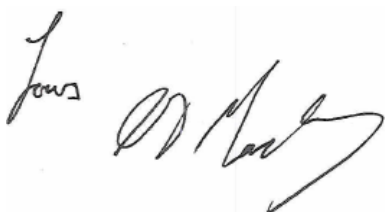
EVs & Air Quality

The SG recognises that increased adoption of EVs can make a significant contribution to local air quality, with a resultant improvement in public health and quality of life. This is highlighted in 'Switched On Scotland: A Roadmap to Widespread Adoption of Plug-in Vehicles'⁴. The Roadmap was launched in 2013, and sets out a vision that by 2050, Scotland's towns, cities and communities will be free from the damaging effects of petrol and diesel vehicles. The Roadmap also contains a set of measures that we and our partners are taking to accelerate the adoption of EVs, for example: continued development of charging infrastructure; encouraging the introduction of local incentives (such as free parking for EVs); and the promotion of the benefits of EVs to the public.

Our 2050 vision has also been incorporated into 'Cleaner Air for Scotland - the Road to a Healthier Future'⁵, Scotland's first distinct air quality strategy which was published in November. In addition to our work on EVs, the air quality strategy sets out how we are working with a range of partners to support new technologies and alternative fuels which can help reduce transport emissions and improve local air quality. For example, we are a funding partner in the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project⁶ which comprises Europe's largest fleet of zero emission hydrogen fuel cell buses, as well as the UK's first large scale green hydrogen production and refuelling facility.

I trust that the above information is helpful, however please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards,



DEREK MACKAY

Cc: Dr Aileen McLeod, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

³ www.greenerscotland.org/greener-travel/greener-driving/charge-point-map

⁴ www.transportscotland.gov.uk/report/j272736-00.htm (See sections 2 and 3.2.2)

⁵ www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/5671/0 (See sections 6.16-6.21)

⁶ <http://aberdeeninvestlivevisit.co.uk/Invest/Aberdeens-Economy/City-Projects/H2-Aberdeen/H2-Aberdeen.aspx>