



Department
for Transport

Iain Stewart
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Anthony Browne MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: anthony.browne@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

6 December 2023

Dear Iain,

Rapid Charging Fund (RCF) pilot and public consultation opening

I am writing to update you and the Committee regarding the opening of applications for the Rapid Charging Fund (RCF) pilot, and consultation on the main RCF fund.

Background

In 2020, the Government published the Prime Minister's ten point plan for a green industrial revolution, which included proposals to accelerate the shift towards electric vehicles (EVs). Improving the charging infrastructure along England's motorways is a vital step towards mass EV adoption and achieving net zero.

The principal objectives of the RCF are:

- To enable the market to provide charging infrastructure at strategic locations to support the government's vision to the transition to a 100% electric car and van fleet;
- To address charge anxiety by providing grant funding that will future-proof grid capacity where it is not commercially viable, leading to a greater provision of ultra-rapid chargepoints.

Rapid Charging Fund pilot

As part of the delivery of the RCF, a £70m pilot scheme will be used to test key aspects of fund policy, processes and design, and to secure learning to inform the main fund.

The Government expects the private sector to deliver chargepoints, but will, under the RCF pilot, fund non-commercially viable costs of future-proofing grid capacity.

In addition to the core RCF objectives, the pilot has the following objectives:

- To generate an improved understanding of the likely barriers to the delivery of the RCF's core objectives;
- To identify opportunities to address these barriers through the design of the fund and its delivery mechanisms;
- To accelerate the delivery of future-proofed connections at motorway service areas (MSAs) where connection costs are a barrier to meeting EV charging demand.

Applicants to the pilot will be motorway service area operators (MSAOs) in England.

There are 114 MSA sites in England and the pilot will be used to fund around five to ten sites, subject to what applications are made.

The pilot will open for applications on **Wednesday 6 December 2023** with an application deadline of **Wednesday 31 January 2024**.

The RCF public consultation

The RCF will be a major government investment in the future of EV charging infrastructure. To help shape the design and delivery arrangements for the main fund, we are seeking feedback and views on the proposals outlined in a public consultation. Responses and evidence gathered will be used alongside the learning from the RCF pilot to inform the design of the main fund.

The RCF consultation will open on **Wednesday 6 December 2023**, closing on **Wednesday 14 February 2024**.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both houses.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Browne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

ANTHONY BROWNE MP

MINISTER FOR DECARBONISATION, AVIATION AND TECHNOLOGY