

Department for Transport – Supplementary written evidence (BAT0049)

Letter from Rachel Maclean MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport following an evidence session on Tuesday 8 June.

Following my attendance at the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee: batteries and fuel cells in net zero evidence session on 8 June, my Department agreed to provide additional information to Baroness Walmsley's query. The query was in relation to what research had been undertaken into customers' views of electric vehicles (EV).

Please find below research that has been undertaken so far.

Published research:

- **DfT Transport and Tech tracker** (6 waves completed) – survey of the general public in England measuring attitudes to new transport technology, including knowledge of EVs, perceived advantages / disadvantages, intention to buy an EV, awareness of Government decision to phase out ICE vehicles.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-and-transport-technology-public-attitudes-tracker>
- **Driving and accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in the UK** – a research conducted by the Behavioural Insight Team and Transport Research Laboratory on behalf of DfT aimed at developing and researching a range of comprehensive policy measures that could address the main barriers and harness the right motivations to accelerate the adoption of EVs in the UK.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/914111/driving-and-accelerating-the-adoption-of-electric-vehicles-in-the-uk.pdf
- **Future of Transport: user study** – A review of existing evidence on characteristics of who is using new and emerging transport technologies in the UK (including EVs), their motivations and barriers to use.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-transport-user-study>
- **[Not commissioned by DfT] Improving drivers' confidence in public EV charging** – a survey of EV drivers conducted by the EV Association England – DfT and OZEV inputted into the questionnaire design. <https://www.evaengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/EVA-England-Consumer-Charging-Survey-Report.pdf>

Not yet published research:

- **Decarbonising transport deliberative research – to be published in the summer**
 - 60% of the public say that they have seen an EV charging point in the last month, with this rising to two-thirds (66%) of frequent drivers.
 - Of those who have seen one in the last month, the majority (69%) say that there is one within a 15-minute drive of their home.
 - In the context of going on a trip (i.e. not being able to charge their vehicle at the end of the day), those who currently drive a petrol or a diesel car anticipate that they would be considerably more cautious when it comes to recharging an electric car than they would if they were refilling their car.
 - A quarter (24%) of those with a driving licence think that the government's proposals to end the sale of petrol, diesel and hybrid cars by 2035 or earlier would make them more likely to buy/lease an electric car. 22% say the same about buying a plug-in hybrid vehicle.

Upcoming research:

- **DfT Transport and Tech tracker wave 7 to be conducted in summer 2021.** Wave 7 will cover similar questions to previous waves given the recent change in contractor. Additional EV related questions will likely be asked at wave 8.
- **Deliberative research with EV and non-EV drivers without off-street parking** – this will be conducted in June / July through a series of online activities / sessions / focus groups over a number of weeks to explore EV charging / EV perceptions, preferences, concerns and solutions.
- **Survey of ICE vehicle drivers without off-street parking** – to gather quantitative data on car usage and parking patterns, EV/charging attitudes / barriers / preferences.
- **Survey of EV drivers with home chargers** – to profile EV drivers characteristics and gather a whole host of insight on consumer experience, use of public charging, attitudes to smart charging.

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