



## Department for Transport

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## Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

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**4 February 2020**

To all MPs,

### **Accelerating the UK's transition to zero-emission vehicles**

We are writing to update you on important progress being made to bring forward the mass uptake of zero-emission vehicles in the UK.

Demonstrating the UK's urgent action to reduce emissions, the Prime Minister announced today that Government plans to bring forward an end to the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans to 2035, or earlier if a faster transition is feasible, subject to consultation, as well as including hybrids for the first time. From that date onwards, only vehicles that are 100% zero-emission at the tailpipe would be sold.

This acceleration of the rollout of zero tailpipe emission vehicles, promised in the Conservative General Election Manifesto, will bring UK plans closer in line with those of the Committee on Climate Change, driving a step change in progress on our commitment to end our contribution to climate change by 2050. A faster move will also help us tackle the scourge of air pollution in our towns and cities. Both are reason enough to accelerate our progress in this area, but we should not overlook the economic opportunity that this transition offers us. These changes to the global automotive market will be worth over £1.5 trillion a year – a prize the UK can achieve a significant share in if we take bold steps now.

We are confident that this accelerated target is wholly achievable, with Government and industry support for the manufacture and sale of zero-emission vehicles already delivering extraordinary market growth. Indeed, we were hugely encouraged by the 144% increase in the sale of battery electric models in 2019 compared to 2018. With 20 new models of electric vehicle being released to the market we believe that 2020 will see another year of strong growth.

One of our key shared priorities has been to ensure the UK is at the vanguard of the zero-emission vehicle revolution, supporting the transition with a £1.5 billion investment package. In the past eight months alone, the UK Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles has:

- Launched the £400 million Charging Infrastructure Investment Fund, the first £70 million of which will create 3,000 new rapid charge points, more than doubling the number of rapid charge points across the UK by 2024;
- Twice doubled funding for the On-Street Residential Charging Scheme – a vital lever for providing charge points for those without off-street parking – from £2.5 million to £10 million;
- Invested £40 million in new UK science and engineering that is developing wireless and other on-street charging technologies;
- Set a new vision for making public charge point data openly available, making it easier than ever for electric vehicle drivers to charge where they want and when they want;
- Launched a comprehensive review into the provision of rapid charge points on England's strategic road network;
- Changed the law to exempt electric taxis from the highest level of Vehicle Excise Duty, increasing affordability and encouraging sales even further;
- And launched a consultation into the introduction of 'green licence plates', an innovative policy that could increase awareness of zero-emission vehicles and help drive consumer interest.

Our vehicle grants have supported the uptake of over 200,000 ultra-low emission vehicles. In addition, Government and industry have, to date, supported the installation of over 17,000 devices providing around 24,000 publicly available charge points, of which more than 2,400 are rapid charge points, and over 100,000 charge points at people's homes and at workplaces. The UK now has one of the largest charging networks in Europe with more locations where you can charge your car than there are petrol stations.

However, we are determined to go further. That is why, over the coming months, we will be working closely with our partners in the automotive, charge point infrastructure and energy sectors to identify current barriers and the measures required from Government and others to create an environment that encourages the mass uptake of zero-emission vehicles.

With the UK hosting the 2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November this year, we have a compelling opportunity to take a global leadership role in building a greener, healthier transport network. We look forward to working with you all as we set out further plans to lead the world in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution while maintaining growth in our economy.

Yours ever,



**Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**



**Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**