



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/507/21

Leanne Wood

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10 March 2021

Dear Leanne,

You asked the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during Business Question on 23 February for an update on the electric vehicle (EV) charging network. I have been asked to respond, as this falls under my portfolio.

Given the growing demand and the necessity to reduce carbon emissions from road transport, we are already working to increase the number of EV chargers across Wales. I can assure you that we are not waiting until 2025 to increase this provision.

We have invested almost £3 million in rolling out additional EV chargepoints in the financial year 2020/2021. We will shortly announce the successful bids from local authorities across Wales under the £38 million Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Transformation Fund for 2021/2022. The bids received include charging infrastructure across the Cardiff City Region.

The fund will also support our ambitions for zero emission buses, taxis and private hire vehicles. The Rhondda valleys will benefit from the £1 million zero emission taxi 'try before you buy' and taxi chargepoints scheme delivered across the Cardiff City Region. Forty four 100% electric wheelchair-accessible vehicles will be purchased for licensed taxi drivers to use on a 30 day 'try before you buy' basis with aim that it will assist them in realising the environmental and financial benefits of using a zero-emission vehicle. As part of the scheme, the associated EV charging will be installed in each local authority areas for the exclusive use of taxis, with a chargepoint planned for Porth.

We have also recently launched a call for a private sector partner to deliver 12 rapid charging locations on the strategic road network in Wales which will be operational in 2021.

Leading on from the consultation on an EV charging strategy for Wales we will shortly be launching an action plan which will set out clear actions for us to deliver further chargepoints across Wales, focusing on areas where there is currently low provision such as the Rhondda Valleys.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We anticipate that the majority of chargepoints will be rolled out by the private sector and we have seen an increase in the number of chargepoints in Wales to over 1,400 from just over 600 in April of 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales