

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

10th August 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

We are pleased to see that you remain in post as Transport Secretary. Your experience and this continuity will be invaluable as the UK continues its shift to cleaner transport. We are encouraged to see early action from the new government to cut VAT on household energy bills, which will reduce electric vehicle charging costs for those able to charge at home.

We would reiterate the importance of strong government direction for the transition to EVs. This will lower living costs, deliver economic growth and secure energy independence. It can only be delivered by an ambitious Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate.

The Mandate provides certainty to businesses by setting targets for the coming years. Watering down targets or significantly extending flexibilities would risk creating doubt in the minds of investors and would have a longer-term impact on business confidence. This potentially undermines billions of pounds of committed investment in the automotive sector, chargepoint sector, business fleets and battery manufacturing and recycling.

The Mandate is working. EV sales are at an all-time high, and New AutoMotive estimates that carmakers are meeting or exceeding targets. In addition, the policy is delivering significant benefits.

1. Lowering costs for households and businesses

Switching to an EV can save drivers around £1400 annually compared to combustion cars. The Mandate is keeping EV prices down and making these savings accessible to more households and business fleets. Autotrader data has found that new EVs are now cheaper than new petrol cars on average.

2. Driving investment and reindustrialisation

Since 2020, the ZEV Mandate has supported over £41 billion in private sector investment. It has built a domestic battery supply chain worth billions. It gives the charging industry the confidence to build and businesses the confidence to invest in fleet transitions. The public charging network has grown rapidly to over 120,000 chargers and is creating thousands of jobs. Weakening this commitment puts these investments and the future of the UK automotive sector at risk.

3. Reducing carbon emissions and improving energy security

Domestic transport accounts for roughly a third of UK carbon emissions. The ZEV Mandate uses market forces to address this without burdening the taxpayer. EVs are set to almost halve the UK's reliance on oil imports by 2040. They also benefit public health by eliminating harmful air pollution from the tailpipe. Retreating from our current path would lock drivers into using expensive, imported fossil fuels and materially increase the likelihood that carbon budgets are not met.

The global race for the electric future is accelerating. Stable, long-term policies attract manufacturing, innovation, and jobs. The UK has a strong first-mover advantage, and the ZEV Mandate is the keystone.

We urge the government to maintain the UK's course and provide the strong leadership required to keep policy and investment aligned, while continuing to support drivers and fleets to electrify. We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Blanche Shackleton, interim executive director, Green Alliance

Ben Nelmes, CEO, New AutoMotive

James Alexander, CEO, UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association

Abby Chicken, Head of Sustainability, Openreach

Matt Manning, Head of Sustainability, BT Group

Mark Constable, Head of Transport Policy, Renewable Energy Association

Nick Bailey, CEO, BatteryIQ

Dr Andy Palmer, Founder and CEO, Palmer Automotive

Dr Christian Marston, President, COO and Co-Founder, Altilium

Jarrold Birch, Head of Policy & Public Affairs, ChargeUK

Maurice Hochschild, Executive Chairman, Osprey Charging Network

Guy Bartlett, CEO, Believ

Deepa Chandrasekaran, Managing Director, Source EV

Ginny Buckley, Founder, Electrifying.com

James Taylor, External Relations Lead, Pod

Vicky Edmonds, CEO, EVA England

Camilla Born MBE, CEO, Electrify Britain

Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

Dominic Phinn, Head of Transport, Climate Group EV100

Emily Hickson, Acting CEO, Climate Catalyst

Tessa Khan, Executive Director, Uplift

Oliver Lord, UK Director, Clean Cities

Rachael Orr, CEO, Climate Outreach

Anna Krajinska, UK Director, Transport & Environment

James Sutton & Amy McDonnell, Co-Executive Directors, Zero Hour

Tom Hurst, Country Director, Fastned

Christian Hahn, CEO, Hsubject

Andreas Atkins, Country Manager UK&I, Ionity

Michael Gibson, CEO, Fuuse

David Lindsay Managing Director, Certi-fi Schemes

Rob Hughes, Co-Founder, Cosmic Charging

Scott Bishop, Managing Director Alpitronic UK Ltd

Craig Marsden, CEO, EVCI Limited

Charlie Cook, CEO, Rightcharge

Paul Kirby, Managing Director, EV Essentials LTD

Warren Philips, Head of FairCharge

Gordon Watling, CEO, Cogent Technology

John Gregory, Managing Director, Ascent Energy Services Ltd

Melanie Shufflebotham, Co-founder and COO, Zapmap

Thom Groot, CEO, The Electric Car Scheme

Chris Pateman-Jones, CEO, Connected Kerb

Tony Donnelly, Founder, NetZero Fleet

Annie Pickering, Operations Director, Climate Emergency UK

Areeba Hamid, Co-Executive Director, Greenpeace