



Mr Sam Keenan
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Your ref: S0741 PAC33

Dear Mr Keenan,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2022. The Committee posed questions relating to two areas, electric vehicles (EVs) and the National Transport Authority's SPSV Advisory Committee. This letter addresses those questions in that order. As per your request, I have included, below, the Committee's questions in my response, in order to make clear which questions are being addressed.

Electric Vehicles

The Committee requested:

1. *A note including information on the following matters concerning electric vehicles (EVs):*

- *any plans the Department has to increase the number of charging points for EVs in rural areas*
- *the Department's position on, and any figures it has on, the size and type of EVs being subsidised*
- *relevant initiatives underway in the Department, including information on the infrastructure strategy being developed this year (pgs. 41-42).*

Decarbonisation

Ireland has set an ambitious target of 945,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on our roads by 2030; this reflects the scale of the transformation needed to achieve our climate targets in the coming years. Under the National Development Plan, €1bn has been allocated to specific carbon-reduction measures, including vehicle electrification.

Grants – BEVs

Please find attached a spreadsheet from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), detailing the EV vehicle-purchase grants paid out in the course of 2021, broken down by manufacturer and model.

In terms of eligibility criteria, a maximum grant of €5,000 is available from SEAI for qualifying new BEVs when bought privately. A BEV is defined as a vehicle that uses a battery as the sole means of energy storage for the propulsion of the vehicle. Approved BEVs with a list price of less than €14,000 will not receive a grant and there is a cap of €60,000 on the purchase price of all vehicles.

In order to qualify, BEVs must have:

- A range of more than 100km
- A top speed of over 100kph
- A vehicle warranty of three years or 100,000km
- Tailpipe emission of 0g CO₂/km



SPSVs

Drivers of SPSVs, including taxis, hackneys and limousines, can apply for grants of up to €10,000 towards the purchase of a new, full-battery eSPSV, with a further €2,500 available to convert it to a wheelchair-accessible model. Where a driver scraps an older, more polluting or high-mileage vehicle, they are eligible for double the normal grant if they make the switch to electric, with €20,000 available for a new, fully electric SPSV or €25,000 for a wheelchair-accessible new electric vehicle.

N1 category EVs (commercial vans)

These are typically small, goods-carrying vans with a maximum mass of 3.5 tonnes. A maximum grant of €3,800 is available for qualifying N1 category new BEVs when bought commercially. Approved BEVs with a list price of less than €14,000 will not receive a grant. The grant level depends on the list price of the vehicle.

Home charging

Having an effective and reliable recharging network is essential to enabling drivers to choose electric. However, charging at home is, and will remain, the most convenient and cheapest way to recharge. Targeting the installation of smart home chargers is a priority as we look to moving towards more energy-efficient and sustainable ways to charge. A grant of up to €600 is available from SEAI for people seeking to install a home charger.

Charging network

Currently, there are over 3,000 chargers available on the network. ESB eCars provide more than 800 charge points, with EasyGo providing in excess of 2,000. The rest of the available charge points are made up of other private operators, including, but not limited to, Tesla and Ionity. The Government is fully committed to supporting a significant expansion and modernisation of the EV charging network over the coming years. An “Office of Low Emission Vehicles” (OLEV) is being established within the Department to lead this on this important work.

ESB

€10 million was committed from the Climate Action Fund to support ESB investment in the charging network and this has leveraged a further €10 million investment from ESB, with the infrastructure to be in place by the end of this year. This intervention alone will result in:

- 90 additional high-power chargers, each capable of charging two vehicles. Seventeen high-power chargers distributed across 14 multi-vehicle hubs have been delivered as part of the programme to date;
- 52 additional fast chargers, which may replace existing standard chargers. This work is already completed at 36 locations;



- 264 replacement standard chargers with more modern technology and with each consisting of two charge points. This work is substantially complete – 258 of the chargers have now been successfully replaced.

Further details on the progression of this project can be found at the ESB's website under 'network upgrades'.

Seamless

There is a need for a seamless public charging network that will provide for situations or instances where home charging is not possible, such as on-street and residential charging, destination charging and workplace charging. The Department of Transport is developing a new scheme, which will support the installation of destination charge points in locations such as hotels, visitor centres and parks. This initiative will help provide another critical link in the overall network for public charging.

Public Charge Point Scheme

This scheme continues to be available during 2022 to provide local authorities with a grant of up to €5,000 per charger to support the development of on-street public chargers, including in towns in rural Ireland. Its primary focus is to provide support for the installation of infrastructure which will facilitate owners of EVs, who do not have access to a private parking space but instead rely on parking their vehicles in public places near their homes, to charge their vehicles. This Department is reviewing the scheme at present in order to maximise its effectiveness in driving the decarbonisation effort.

A report was published by the County and City Management Association on guidance to local authorities regarding the provision of charging infrastructure. That document is available for viewing online.

Apartments

Work is currently being progressed to expand the EV home-charger grant to include shared parking in apartment blocks and similar developments. The Department of Transport is working closely with SEAI with a view to progressing a scheme for apartments as soon as possible.

Infrastructure strategy

A national charging infrastructure strategy is being developed, which will set out a pathway to stay ahead of demand over the critical period out to 2025. The Department of Transport is engaging with relevant stakeholders to inform this work. It is envisaged that the draft strategy will be published at the end of March, following which a public consultation will commence.

Just Transition

The Government has repeatedly stated its commitment to a Just Transition to a decarbonise Ireland, which takes into account the differing needs of all sectors of our society, including those who live in rural Ireland. The forthcoming infrastructure strategy will reflect this commitment.



OLEV

As already mentioned, preparations are under way to establish an Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This was one of 36 recommendations in a report from the Electric Vehicle Policy Pathway (EVPP) working group, consisting of seven Government Departments and the Sustainable Authority of Ireland. The working group considered a mix of policies to enable Ireland to meet this Climate Action Plan target, which will require a significant ramping-up of EV sales. Its report can be viewed online. OLEV will play an important role in Ireland's transition to zero-emission vehicles, co-ordinating measures to support the uptake of EVs and the rollout of charge point infrastructure.

SPSV Advisory Committee

In its second question, the Committee requested: *"A note outlining the current status of the taxi advisory committee, including its current composition and its recent schedule of meeting (page 47)"* The Advisory Committee on Small Public Services (SPSVs) is a statutory committee established under section 72 of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 to advise the Minister and the NTA in relation to the SPSV sector. The Committee's membership represents a broad range of interests and stakeholders, including four positions for SPSV drivers. The Committee is the primary forum for dealing with issues affecting the sector and many of the measures taken to support the taxi industry during the pandemic have originated as recommendations from the Committee, including the extension of taxi age limits and the waiver of licence fees. This table outlines the current composition of the Advisory Committee on SPSVs:

| Taxi Advisory Committee | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|
| Name | Interest under s.72(4) of the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 | County | Expiry Date |
| Cornelius O'Donohoe | Chairperson | Dublin | 28 June 2022 |
| Kevin Finn | SPSV and driver interests | Kerry | 28 June 2022 |
| Francis Doheny | SPSV and driver interests | Kildare | 31 March 2024 |
| John Murphy | SPSV and driver interests | Galway | 28 June 2022 |
| Martin Plummer | SPSV and driver interests | Meath | 31 March 2024 |
| Shajedul Chowdhury | Other | Limerick | 31 March 2024 |
| Mary Henchy | Local Authorities | Dublin | 28 June 2022 |
| Superintendent Tom Murphy | DMR Roads Policing, Dublin Castle | Dublin | 28 June 2022 |



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|----------------------|--|----------|-------------------------|
| James Cawley | Consumer interests | Longford | 28 June 2022 |
| Michelle Reid | Consumer interests | Dublin | 31 March 2024 |
| Joan Carthy | Persons with Disability | Dublin | 28 June 2022 |
| Ann Campbell | Business interests | Sligo | 28 June 2022 |
| Peter Fleming | Older persons interests | Dublin | 28 June 2022 |
| Al Ryan | Tourism interests | Dublin | 31 December 2022 |
| James O'Brien | Special interest or expertise position | Longford | 28 June 2022 |
| Noel Ebbs | Special interest or expertise position | Dublin | 1 August 2023 |
| Fiona Brady | Special interest or expertise position | Dublin | 31 March 2024 |
| Vacancy | Special interest or expertise position | | |

The terms of office of a number of Committee members are due to expire this year and the Department is now reviewing those with a view to making a submission to the Minister on the matter. The Department will also be seeking to progress the filling of the remaining vacancy on the Committee. In this regard, consideration is being given to filling this vacancy with a Dublin-based SPSV driver who could act as an additional SPSV/driver interests representative and also assist in ensuring geographical balance among the SPSV representatives on the Committee given the large number of Dublin-based SPSV licensees.

The Advisory Committee on SPSVs meets on a monthly basis. It has been holding its meetings online since the pandemic started, in line with public health advice. Meetings for the last six months in 2021 took place as follows: 27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 30 September, 28 October and 25 November.

Minutes of the meetings can be found on the NTA website, at <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/about-us/advisory-committee-on-spsvs/>

Minister Eamon Ryan has met with the Advisory Committee three times since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, the most recent one taking place on 25 November 2021. The meeting provided the Minister with a valuable opportunity to get first-hand information on the issues affecting the industry at present, as well as an initial assessment on the impact that the latest Covid-related restrictions at that time were having on operators.



If the Committee has any further queries relating to these matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Spratt', is written over a thin blue horizontal line.

Ken Spratt
Secretary General

2021 EV Grants paid by manufacturer and model

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| Manufacturer | Model | BEV/PHEV | No: of grants | % of 2021 | Value |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Audi | A3 | PHEV | 107 | 0.80% | €431,600 |
| Audi | A6 | PHEV | 24 | 0.18% | €106,800 |
| Audi | A7 | PHEV | 9 | 0.07% | €41,400 |
| Audi | e-tron | BEV | 92 | 0.69% | €418,800 |
| Audi | e-tron GT quattro | BEV | 12 | 0.09% | €55,200 |
| Audi | Q4 e-tron | BEV | 97 | 0.72% | €469,600 |
| Audi | Q5 | PHEV | 123 | 0.92% | €550,900 |
| BMW | 2 Series | PHEV | 3 | 0.02% | €13,800 |
| BMW | 3 Series | PHEV | 341 | 2.54% | €1,517,800 |
| BMW | 5 Series | PHEV | 151 | 1.13% | €700,600 |
| BMW | 7 Series | PHEV | 13 | 0.10% | €55,400 |
| BMW | i3 | BEV | 13 | 0.10% | €54,200 |
| BMW | iX3 | BEV | 27 | 0.20% | €115,800 |
| BMW | X1 | PHEV | 139 | 1.04% | €658,200 |
| BMW | X2 | PHEV | 12 | 0.09% | €51,400 |
| BMW | X3 | PHEV | 157 | 1.17% | €773,000 |
| BMW | X5 | PHEV | 509 | 3.79% | €2,500,600 |
| Citroen | Berlingo | BEV | 4 | 0.03% | €15,200 |
| Citroen | C5 | PHEV | 28 | 0.21% | €115,900 |
| Citroen | e-C4 | BEV | 33 | 0.25% | €149,400 |
| Citroen | e-Space Tourer | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €5,000 |
| Cupra | Formentor | PHEV | 51 | 0.38% | €223,400 |
| Cupra | Leon | PHEV | 28 | 0.21% | €112,200 |
| DS Automobiles | DS3 Crossback | BEV | 4 | 0.03% | €15,200 |
| DS Automobiles | DS7 Crossback | PHEV | 7 | 0.05% | €26,600 |
| Ford | Kuga | PHEV | 322 | 2.40% | €1,491,800 |
| Ford | Mustang Mach-E | BEV | 17 | 0.13% | €66,400 |
| Honda | e | BEV | 34 | 0.25% | €159,400 |
| Hyundai | Ioniq 5 | BEV | 59 | 0.44% | €271,000 |
| Hyundai | Ioniq | BEV | 168 | 1.25% | €741,800 |

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|------------|--------------------|------|-----|-------|------------|
| Hyundai | Ioniq | PHEV | 22 | 0.16% | €96,200 |
| Hyundai | Kona | BEV | 216 | 1.61% | €950,600 |
| Hyundai | Kona Van | BEV | 7 | 0.05% | €26,600 |
| Hyundai | Santa Fe | PHEV | 254 | 1.89% | €1,185,700 |
| Hyundai | Tucson | PHEV | 348 | 2.59% | €1,533,000 |
| Jaguar | E-Pace | PHEV | 2 | 0.01% | €8,800 |
| Jaguar | F-Pace | PHEV | 29 | 0.22% | €141,400 |
| Jaguar | I-Pace | BEV | 13 | 0.10% | €55,400 |
| JEEP | Renegade | PHEV | 6 | 0.04% | €30,000 |
| Kia | Ceed | PHEV | 248 | 1.85% | €1,099,500 |
| Kia | e-Soul | BEV | 75 | 0.56% | €364,600 |
| Kia | EV6 | BEV | 22 | 0.16% | €96,800 |
| Kia | Niro | BEV | 733 | 5.46% | €3,617,800 |
| Kia | Niro | PHEV | 464 | 3.46% | €2,276,300 |
| Kia | Sorento | PHEV | 406 | 3.03% | €1,906,400 |
| Kia | Xceed | PHEV | 276 | 2.06% | €1,347,300 |
| Land Rover | Discovery | PHEV | 91 | 0.68% | €438,100 |
| Land Rover | Range Rover Evoque | PHEV | 174 | 1.30% | €804,000 |
| Land Rover | Range Rover Velar | PHEV | 51 | 0.38% | €243,000 |
| Lexus | UX300e | BEV | 16 | 0.12% | €68,400 |
| Maxus | e Deliver 3 | BEV | 52 | 0.39% | €197,600 |
| Mazda | MX-30 | BEV | 94 | 0.70% | €430,800 |
| Mercedes | C300de | PHEV | 4 | 0.03% | €18,800 |
| Mercedes | C300e | PHEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| Mercedes | CLA 250e | PHEV | 38 | 0.28% | €159,700 |
| Mercedes | E300de | PHEV | 113 | 0.84% | €542,800 |
| Mercedes | E300e | PHEV | 54 | 0.40% | €268,000 |
| Mercedes | EQA | BEV | 51 | 0.38% | €234,600 |
| Mercedes | EQC | BEV | 16 | 0.12% | €78,800 |
| Mercedes | EQV | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| Mercedes | e-Sprinter | BEV | 7 | 0.05% | €26,600 |
| Mercedes | GLA 250e | PHEV | 35 | 0.26% | €155,200 |
| Mercedes | GLC 300de | PHEV | 73 | 0.54% | €348,400 |

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|------------|---------------|-----------|-----|-------|------------|
| Mercedes | GLC 300e | PHEV | 17 | 0.13% | €85,000 |
| Mercedes | GLE 350de | PHEV | 28 | 0.21% | €132,800 |
| MINI | Mini Electric | BEV | 144 | 1.07% | €672,800 |
| MINI | Mini | PHEV | 98 | 0.73% | €452,500 |
| MG | HS | PHEV | 96 | 0.72% | €413,000 |
| MG | ZS Van | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| MG | ZS | BEV | 243 | 1.81% | €1,165,000 |
| MG | MG5 | BEV | 127 | 0.95% | €626,600 |
| Mitsubishi | Outlander | PHEV | 100 | 0.75% | €489,400 |
| Nissan | eNV200 | BEV | 89 | 0.66% | €338,200 |
| Nissan | Leaf | BEV | 671 | 5.00% | €3,314,400 |
| Nissan | Leaf Van | BEV | 9 | 0.07% | €34,200 |
| Opel | Corsa-E | BEV | 138 | 1.03% | €595,000 |
| Opel | Corsa-E van | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| Opel | Grandland | PHEV | 47 | 0.35% | €219,000 |
| Opel | Mokka-e | BEV | 37 | 0.28% | €177,600 |
| Opel | Vivaro-e | BEV | 12 | 0.09% | €47,200 |
| Peugeot | e-208 van | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| Peugeot | | 3008 PHEV | 246 | 1.83% | €1,149,900 |
| Peugeot | | 508 PHEV | 60 | 0.45% | €255,500 |
| Peugeot | e-2008 | BEV | 191 | 1.42% | €909,400 |
| Peugeot | e-208 | BEV | 152 | 1.13% | €704,000 |
| Peugeot | e-Expert Van | BEV | 9 | 0.07% | €37,800 |
| Porsche | Taycan | BEV | 54 | 0.40% | €260,800 |
| Renault | Captur | PHEV | 307 | 2.29% | €1,394,100 |
| Renault | Kangoo | BEV | 38 | 0.28% | €142,800 |
| Renault | Megane | PHEV | 108 | 0.80% | €470,300 |
| Renault | Zoe | BEV | 314 | 2.34% | €1,439,600 |
| Renault | Zoe Van | BEV | 4 | 0.03% | €15,200 |
| SEAT | Leon | PHEV | 136 | 1.01% | €615,400 |
| Skoda | Enyaq | BEV | 172 | 1.28% | €815,400 |
| Skoda | Octavia | PHEV | 42 | 0.31% | €149,500 |
| Skoda | Superb | PHEV | 56 | 0.42% | €242,100 |

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|--------|---------------|------|-----|-------|------------|
| Tesla | Model 3 | BEV | 475 | 3.54% | €2,340,200 |
| Tesla | Model S | BEV | 4 | 0.03% | €20,000 |
| Tesla | Model X | BEV | 2 | 0.01% | €10,000 |
| Toyota | Prius | PHEV | 1 | 0.01% | €5,000 |
| Toyota | Rav4 | PHEV | 3 | 0.02% | €12,600 |
| Volvo | S90 | PHEV | 5 | 0.04% | €22,600 |
| Volvo | V60 | PHEV | 8 | 0.06% | €38,800 |
| Volvo | XC40 | BEV | 20 | 0.15% | €78,600 |
| Volvo | XC40 | PHEV | 351 | 2.62% | €1,712,200 |
| Volvo | XC60 | PHEV | 107 | 0.80% | €487,800 |
| Volvo | XC90 | PHEV | 235 | 1.75% | €1,113,200 |
| VW | Arteon | PHEV | 4 | 0.03% | €19,500 |
| VW | e-Golf | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €5,000 |
| VW | e-Shuttle | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| VW | e-Transporter | BEV | 1 | 0.01% | €3,800 |
| VW | Golf GTE | PHEV | 38 | 0.28% | €162,800 |
| VW | ID3 | BEV | 945 | 7.04% | €4,661,800 |
| VW | ID4 | BEV | 828 | 6.17% | €4,092,800 |
| VW | Passat | PHEV | 30 | 0.22% | €145,200 |
| VW | Touareg | PHEV | 28 | 0.21% | €124,600 |