

David Sterling
Head of the Civil Service
Room FD.34, Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate, Belfast
BT4 3TT, Northern Ireland
Tel: 028 9037 8133
E-mail: hocs@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Alison McCullagh
Director of Regeneration and Planning
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Townhall
2 Townhall Street
ENNISKILLEN
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 7BA

Our Ref: COR140/2017

21 September 2017

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2017 regarding the steps Government is taking to encourage vehicle owners to move towards electric vehicles.

The ecarri project delivered a network of 336 electric vehicle charge points across Northern Ireland between 2011 and 2015. This was a £3.2 million investment led by the then Department for Regional Development along with a consortium of market players including Councils, car dealers, the electricity sector and funding partners in the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and the EU.

The charge point network was handed over to the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) to operate commercially in July 2015.

Since then the Department for Infrastructure has been managing the ongoing commitment to support this emerging market.

This has included taking forward OLEV funded infrastructure projects such as the Public Sector Estate charge point programme, monitoring the effectiveness of the network in conjunction with ESB and dealing with queries from public representatives, electric vehicle drivers and potential new users.

OLEV is currently developing a United Kingdom wide Ultra Low Emission Vehicle strategy in consultation with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The strategy will set out plans for the decarbonisation of road transport and is due to be published early next year. The Department for Infrastructure will continue to represent the Northern Ireland context in the development of the strategy.

In parallel, OLEV continue to support the development of the sustainable transport sector having put in place a £600m programme of support for the early market. This

investment funds a range of grants for vehicles and charge points, as well as research and development support.

From a Northern Ireland perspective we have installed infrastructure which is commensurate with the level of growth and is managed in the private sector without any major public financing. In addition potential electric vehicle drivers in Northern Ireland can avail of grants of up to £4500 for a car and up to £8000 for a van alongside grants for home and workplace charging facilities. The funding opportunities provided by OLEV are closely monitored by the Department for Infrastructure and, where appropriate, bids for funding will be pursued.

It should be noted however that these opportunities are generally competition based and are open to Public and Private sector bodies across the UK and as such I would encourage Council to avail of any opportunities which may arise. The ecar team in DfI will be happy to assist with any queries you may have about the procedural aspects of any grant application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sterling', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DAVID STERLING
Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service

Brendan Hegarty
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Your Ref

Our Ref

Date 13 September 2017

Being dealt with by Alison McCullagh

Email Alison.McCullagh@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr David Sterling
Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
The Executive Office
GD36
Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SH

Dear Mr Sterling

At its meeting of 5 September 2017, Members of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council ask that I write to you to clarify the steps which Central Government is taking to encourage vehicle owners to move towards electric vehicles.

The Council has been in recent correspondence with the Department for Infrastructure on some specific matters regarding the proposed relocation of e-car charging points, but given the cross departmental nature of our query, it was thought more appropriate to direct this correspondence to your office.

To facilitate my reporting to the Council, a response by 26 September 2017 would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Director of Regeneration and Planning