



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

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## **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON MAXIMUM RESALE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY AS IT APPLIES TO ULTRA LOW EMISSION VEHICLES (ULEVS)**

Thank you for providing the Department for Infrastructure with the opportunity to comment on your consultation document which examines whether the Maximum Resale Price (MRP) for electricity is a barrier to the maintenance and development of public charging infrastructure for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) in Northern Ireland.

Since 2011, the Department has been supporting the introduction of electric vehicles to the market through the ecarri project and led a consortium which installed the infrastructure required to provide for opportunity charging and range extension across an all island interoperable charge point network. While the majority of charging of electric vehicles will be carried out at home, the visibility and availability of a reliable public charge point network will continue to be important in building public confidence in electric infrastructure and to reassure the public that there is a viable mainstream alternative to petrol and diesel cars and vans.

Both options outlined in the consultation document should give clarity for operators wishing to provide commercial services in Northern Ireland. It appears that Option 2 may place some additional requirements on operators in separating electricity and charge point management costs, which is not a requirement in Great Britain or in the Republic of Ireland. Option 1, if appropriate in the Northern Ireland context, would provide alignment across the market and avoid this additional requirement.

We look forward to the outcome of consultation exercise and hopefully to a solution that will strengthen network provision and contribute to the UK Government's long term ambitions for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

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**Director of Transport Policy**