

Rachel Maclean MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 4DR

6 October 2020

Dear Minister,

### **Targeting full decarbonisation of cars and vans in UK corporate fleets by 2030**

I am writing to call on the Government to take a leadership position on decarbonisation of corporate fleets ahead of COP26 as part of the UK's Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

As a leading provider of low carbon infrastructure, and a company committed to delivering net zero, SSE is keen to support the UK in its leadership on Electric Vehicles (EVs). We have publicly supported bringing forward the end date for the sale of petrol and diesel cars and vans to 2030, and have committed to decarbonising 3500 vehicles in our own fleet by 2030 through the [Climate Group's EV100 campaign](#); an initiative which we know will form an important part of the Government's action on climate change in the run up to COP26.

Given that our fleet operates in some of the most remote locations across Great Britain, including the highlands and islands of Scotland, we believe the full decarbonisation of cars and vans across all corporate fleets in the UK is achievable within a decade. EVs will become the default choice for businesses as they take advantage of the lower operational costs as the upfront costs decline.

However, challenges remain, most notably in the charging infrastructure and availability of vehicles, particularly vans. In addition, corporate fleet decarbonisation may happen unevenly, with some companies not playing their part in the coming years. Whilst it initially comes at a cost, we view our customers and shareholders will support our positive commitments to do the right thing and help deliver on UK decarbonisation goals including the 5<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget.

To mitigate these issues, we call on the Government to **commit to targeting the full decarbonisation of cars and vans within UK corporate fleets by 2030 in the UK's upcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan**<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Covering vehicles under 3.5 tonnes, with time-limited exemptions for specialised vehicles being available if barriers remain.

We believe commitments from Government on corporate fleets will be important in helping to reduce the costs of decarbonising fleets and addressing potential barriers, thereby encouraging other companies to follow the lead set by SSE. A commitment will:

- **Signal upcoming demand to EV manufacturers** to support delivery of electric cars and vans into the UK market.
- Help support deployment of **public EV charging infrastructure** that our vehicles can use in transit as well as at employees' homes if they do not have access to off-street parking.

More widely committing to the full decarbonisation of cars and vans in corporate fleets by 2030 would secure opportunities for the UK EV and battery supply chain, supporting an important growth industry for the UK as part of a green recovery.

Measures to electrify corporate fleets will also stimulate the second-hand EV market, making the transition accessible and more affordable for UK households. 56% of new vehicles purchased are intended for corporate fleets, which in turn account for 1.5 million vehicles to the second-hand market annually.

Importantly, making this commitment on corporate fleet decarbonisation ahead of COP26 will demonstrate UK leadership and help encourage similar commitments from other countries, as well as companies and non-state actors in markets with less ambitious climate policies. Ultimately, all attendees at COP26 should be encouraged to make their own EV100 commitment and alongside help make the Clean Road Transport theme a success.

To deliver on our commitments, continued support from Government will be needed. The roll-out of extensive EV charging infrastructure being critical, and the UK should aim to deploy the most extensive EV charging infrastructure in the world by 2025, ensuring it can be considered a universal service provision. Commitments on EV charging infrastructure, ending the sale of petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, and targeting the full decarbonisation of UK corporate fleet by 2030s can help make COP26 a lasting success – both domestically and internationally.

Kind regards



Alistair Phillips-Davies, Chief Executive