



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
Scottish Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

12 July 2024

Dear Fiona

**Sustainable Energy Plans (SEPs) and the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure**

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on 4 June to discuss the Scottish Government's transport policies.

I am writing to you as part of the Committee's ongoing 2025-26 pre-budget scrutiny. As you know, the Committee has taken an interest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure during its consideration of the Budget in the last two years and has received several updates from you and Ministerial colleagues.

*Budget for EV charging infrastructure*

In [June 2023](#), the Committee was told:

“The fund will make £30 million of public funding available. To date, a total of £7.25 million of this funding has been allocated across all of Scotland's local authorities to support development of Electric Vehicle Public Charging Strategy and Expansion Plans, market engagement, procurement strategies, associated procurement documentation, contract management and enabling works. An initial planning phase that will establish public electric vehicle charging strategies covering all of Scotland is now nearing conclusion and further funding allocations are anticipated from the summer of 2023.”

In [December that year](#), we heard “£4.48 million of the funding from the EV Infrastructure Fund has been allocated to Local Authorities to support development of public EV charging Strategy and Expansion Plans.”

In an [evidence session in January this year](#), a Transport Scotland official told us:

“We have confirmed the £20 million of funding, but it has not been drawn down yet. That is the confirmation with the local authorities in discussions on the back of the pipeline that we have discussed. That is the funding that we will start to see going out the door this financial year, when we will, we hope, start to see the match private finance initiatives coming in and those charge points being installed.”

[Correspondence](#) from the then Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy in February said:

“Each LA has been offered up to £140,000 (£4.48 million in total) to support the cost of developing a SEP, supported by resources and guidance from Scottish Futures Trust and Energy Savings Trust.”

In your 4 June evidence, you told us—

“We anticipate that there will be £65 million to invest in this area in terms of that partnership with the private sector.”

On 11 July, you announced that Dundee, Highland, Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils had been awarded funding. These were anticipated in Q1 of 2024 in correspondence earlier in the year.

The Committee requests:

- 1. Reasons for the apparent discrepancy between the £7.25m figure provided in the June 2023 letter to support the creation of SEPs and the £4.48m figure provided later;**
- 2. Details of why the funding allocations originally anticipated in summer 2023, were updated to 2024 in the letter of 7 February;**
- 3. Detail of whether the funding allocations anticipated to local authorities in quarters 1, 2 and 3 of 2024 have been made (as per correspondence in February);**
  - a. Are funding allocations progressing at the pace intended?**
- 4. What level of private finance is confirmed to be leveraged through each of the SEPs so far;**
- 5. More detail on what the figure of £65m in partnership with the private sector refers to?**

#### *Additional 24,000 chargers*

A package of policy measures was published to accompany the Scottish Government’s 18 April announcement of reform of the approach to setting targets for emissions reduction. This included “the publication of a new route map this year for the delivery of approximately 24,000 additional electric vehicle charge points by 2030”. The Committee asked the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy about

this on 28 May and she confirmed the 24,000 was *in addition* to the number of charging points previously announced. On 4 June, you said “For us, the extrapolation of 24,000 was on a UK basis.”

The Committee has previously heard from the Scottish Government that it did not view the figure derived from an estimate of what would be required around the UK as a target. This figure came from the Committee on Climate Change. The then Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport said in his [response](#) to the Committee’s pre-budget scrutiny in 2022—

“No target has been established for the number of charge points required in Scotland. A figure of 30,000 charge points required for Scotland is often quoted, however this is something that has been inferred from possible charge point scenarios included in a report published by the Committee on Climate Change— it is not a Scottish Government target. It is hard to predict what number may be required, due to factors such as innovation in battery and charging technology, and the mix of charger capacities deployed across Scotland. The Scottish Government is also focused on delivering a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030 that will also have a profound influence on EV charging needs.”

**The Committee asks:**

- 6. When will the route map be published for delivery of the 24,000 additional chargers and how will this interact with the Vision published last June?**
- 7. How does this approach fit with the First Minister’s view on the number of strategy documents and is there a plan to simplify the approach?**
- 8. Has the Scottish Government accepted the CCC’s estimate that 30,000 public charging points may be required in Scotland? If so, is this in the light of particular developments or new information?**

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 23 August 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**