

## FOI Request (received 27 July 2022) - Reference: DFI/2022-0234

1. Could you give me a full list of your department's vehicle fleet please, highlighting whether they are petrol/diesel/electric/hydrogen powered?
2. Could you also tell me what plans are in place to replace all of these vehicles to zero emissions versions and how much you anticipate that will cost? Can you also say when you believe the transition will be complete?
3. I am also curious about whether there is any policy in place - or underway - to encourage your subcontractors to make the transition to zero-emissions vehicles?
4. Following this Alliance Party press release of 27 July 2022, below, could you tell me how many EV charging points are now in NI - and if there are any grants available to install one in homes?

*Northern Ireland is still lagging behind when it comes to the introduction of electric vehicle charging provision, Alliance MLA Andrew Muir has said, after it was revealed the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) was still only engaging in discussions with other Departments on the issue.*

*Responding to an Assembly question from the Alliance Infrastructure spokesperson, the DFI stated it was still only discussing the matter with officials from other parties in order to bring forward the charging infrastructure. It comes at the same time England is introducing legislation which will see up to 145,000 extra home charging points installed each year in the run up to 2030.*

*North Down MLA Mr Muir said the Minister must now outline how DFI will implement impending regulations around minimum requirements for electric vehicle charging.*

*"With the Climate Change Act now a piece of legally binding legislation, it is vital we are doing everything we can to meet our climate targets," he said.*

*"It is deeply frustrating Northern Ireland is lagging behind other regions when it comes to the introduction of electric vehicle charging, particularly at a time when England is introducing legislation on the same. Instead, our Department is still at the drawing board and merely still engaging in discussions on the matter.*

*"EU energy regulations will still apply to Northern Ireland post-Brexit and they have minimum requirements for electric vehicle charging for new and existing non-residential buildings. The Minister must outline how DFI will meet that here.*

*"Northern Ireland was once a leader in terms of electric vehicle charging. How we have fallen embarrassingly behind. Whilst other regions are hitting the ground*

*running with action and progress, we are once again spending too long sitting in discussions without any action.”*

## **Response (issued 19 August 2022)**

Thank you for your email dated 27 July 2022 requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), the above information held by the Department.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold information relating to your request and this information can be released.

The information you requested is set out below.

1. Please note that due to the number of vehicles in the various Fleets of the Department (c613) it was thought prudent to list them in categories rather than on an individual basis.

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Drive System</b>
		<b>Petrol/Diesel/Electric/Hydrogen/HYBrid</b>
Small Car	18	<b>13D; 1P; 2E; 2HYB</b>
Motorcycles	16	<b>16P</b>
Small Van	99	<b>97D; 2E</b>
Medium Van	11	<b>11D</b>
Large Van	27	<b>27D</b>
Small Lorry	170	<b>170D</b>
Medium Lorry	75	<b>75D</b>
Large Lorry	16	<b>16D</b>
Small Off-Road Vehicle	5	<b>5D</b>
Medium Gritter	121	<b>121D</b>
Large Gritter	24	<b>24D</b>
Medium Road Sweeper	10	<b>10D</b>
Medium Gully Emptier	21	<b>21D</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>590D; 17P; 4E; 2HYB</b>

2. With regard to plans in place to replace all of these vehicles with zero emissions versions the Department is currently developing a plan that will see all our vans and cars replaced in line with the Executive’s target of 2035. There is currently no published date for heavy vehicles and plant to be zero emissions, however, the Department is currently monitoring the development and application of various zero emissions equivalents to our larger diesel vehicles. The plan to ‘green’ the fleet will be coordinated with our normal replacement schedules to meet the Executive’s targets. The Department does not currently have a cost estimate for the transfer to zero emissions fleets. However, the

electric/hybrid vehicles purchased to-date, cost around twice the price of an equivalent diesel vehicle. That said, we expect the prices to fall as the market for such vehicles develops.

3. As part of their Social Value Plan for construction and services contracts tendered after June 2022, it is a mandatory requirement for contractors to submit an Environmental Strategy. This must include carbon reduction measures and annual updates in relation to the work being carried out. In assessing such submissions the Department will look for actions such as: working towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions; supply chains that minimise carbon footprint and emissions; employment of low or zero-carbon practices/materials and the assessing and minimising of embodied carbon.
4. The current electric vehicle public charge point network is owned by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and is operated on a commercial basis. There are 337 charge points on this network and ESB has advised it plans to expand and enhance its network with the funding it has secured through the UK Government's Levelling-Up Fund. Funding opportunities for the installation of charge point infrastructure in the UK, including for home charge points, are provided by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).

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