



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the Consultation on (*Draft
National Policy for Electric Vehicle Public Charging
Infrastructure*)

26th November 2021

*Ministry for Energy, Enterprise, and Sustainable Development
Quarry Wharf, Valletta*

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Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

1. A brief introduction about the subject.

In line with the Maltese Government's policy to promote the uptake of Electric Vehicles, this National Policy aims to cover the charging infrastructure for plug-in and electric vehicles accessible by the public. After providing an overview of the Electric Vehicle rollout progress in Malta, this document proceeds to outline the technical differences between charging infrastructure, three phases of electric charging, and standardisation of charging socket outlets. The regulation of public infrastructure (Publicly Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Regulations, 2021) is also highlighted through a Charging Point Operator license which will fall under the remit of the Regulator for Energy and Water Services, REWS. To ensure a consumer-centred approach, this policy establishes the requirements for the interoperability of all future charging infrastructure, including the payment platform. Finally, the policy determines the impact of charging infrastructure on the grid.

2. The public consultation date.

Include the objective and purpose of the public consultation.

Published on the 25th of August 2021, this national strategy for public charging infrastructure for electric cars is incentivizing the private sector to invest in public charging pillars. The strategy aims to lessen carbon emissions by making it easier and financially feasible to own electric cars, while safeguarding public health. The public consultation closed on the 27th of September 2021.

3. This consultation sought views on:

- The growth of charging infrastructure expansion, directly related to the development of electromobility and the uptake of electric vehicles

Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

4. The closing date of the public consultation. Which methods were used to receive the feedback? The total amount of responses. From whom you received the feedback.

The consultation closed on 25 September 2021. The consultation document and the reply form were available online and responses were accepted electronically by email on chargingpillars.mesd@gov.mt. In total, there were 11 responses. These were received from across the industry, local authorities, and individuals. A list of respondents can be found below.

5. Include (if any) meetings with stakeholders and list who the stakeholders were.

Several meetings with stakeholders, including the private sector, were also held during the consultation period. These meetings have also informed our thinking and final decision. The meetings were held with MCCA, MTIP, MECP, Car importers and REWS.

Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

6. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 11
- Total feedback received by individuals: 1
- Total feedback received by organisations: 4
- Others*: 6
- Total feedback received through email: 11
- Total feedback received through online form: 0
- Total feedback received by post: N/A

*Private companies or Government entities (full list in Annex A)

7. Summary of feedback received.

A majority of respondents were in favour of the National Policy on Charging Infrastructure, however, most of the comments could not be included in the Policy Paper itself but discussed internally by the Governing Committee in charge of this Paper's implementation.

In view of the public consultation and the evidence and opinions from the consultation exercise, the Government has decided to take the decisions as summarised below regarding the pointers put forward by the general public:

- The assessment of the policy paper remains focused on the importance of publicly charging infrastructure and how private charging pillar operators are encouraged to penetrate the market.
- Appropriate fines should be introduced in cases where the regulation is not being followed. The system needs to cater for rented vehicles and whereby license operators should not be held responsible for the fines.
- Through the governing committee the holistic plan for charging infrastructure, standards will be established on how many chargers should be installed per kilometre on a road depending on the density of the area. This needs to reflect the requirements set in the proposed Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR).

- Rules on the duration of electric vehicle parking in allocated parking spots are included as part of the Legal Advice set by Transport Malta.
- To include the importance of introducing Vehicle to Grid (V2G) charging technologies as well as charging infrastructure coupled with Solar Carport Structures.
- Public infrastructure in strategic locations should also cater for medium and heavy-duty vehicle charging. This will be requested by the AFIR and included in the policy paper.
- Public charging points shall be certified at minimum by a licensed A or B technician, for compliance with the regulations, at least once a year (depending on the electrical system to be certified).
- The governing committee includes more entities and specific experts as stakeholders who would be requested to join specific meetings.

Implementation

8. When you intend to implement the decisions

Subject to Parliamentary approval, we intend to implement our decision in 2022.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact: chargingpillars.mesd@gov.mt

Annex A: List of respondents

MCCAA
Debono Group
ERA
Matthew Caruana
Gozo Business Chamber
Foundation for Transport
Malta Chamber of Commerce
Malta Chamber of SMEs
Ministry for Transport (MTIP)
Rent-a-car association
Siemens