

National Policy for Electric Vehicle Public Charging Infrastructure



Consultation Document - September 2021

The Gozo Business Chamber's Feedback to the Consultation Document

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THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

1. The Gozo Business Chamber's feedback

The Chamber welcomes the proposed policy document within the overall endeavour to encourage a greater uptake of electric vehicles.

It is positive to note that the inter-operability factor is being adequately taken into consideration and catered for.

As reiterated in its feedback on the proposed regulations relating to public infrastructure access points it is to be ensured that there is an equitable distribution of public charging pillars.

It is positive to note that the policy document proposes a mechanism regarding the distribution of public electric vehicle charging. The proposed mechanism is also set to take into consideration the feedback of local councils.

However, it is also important to take into consideration tourism density. Thus for example, though in the case of Gozo the actual population may be low, due to both domestic and foreign inbound tourism, together with those tourists staying in Malta but who visit Gozo only for a day, the people who are actually present in Gozo during particular periods may be very high. Another point to be taken into consideration is that since the accommodation in Gozo is based on self-catering units one needs to take into consideration the distribution of these units. To this end the Government might consider a form of public service obligation to ensure an equitable distribution of the network, especially if a particular operator achieves market dominance.

With reference to the ability of the operator to charge a premium, and Government's commitment that Gozo should achieve carbon neutrality prior to Malta it would be important if the premium to be charged in Gozo is less. This would ensure that people who travel to Gozo, would do so with electric vehicles, and also enhance the uptake of electric vehicles by persons who do not have a charging point at home, and would need to charge their vehicle through the publicly accessible vehicle charging points.
