

AQS 23 Electric Vehicle Association (EVA) Cymru

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Bil yr Amgylchedd (Ansawdd Aer a Seinweddau) (Cymru) | The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Cymdeithas Cerbydau Trydan Cymru (EVA) Cymru | Evidence from Electric Vehicle Association (EVA) Cymru



Response to Senedd Consultation: The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill

April 2023

Electric Vehicle Association (EVA) Cymru is Wales' national representative body for Electric Vehicle (EV) owners and drivers. EVA Cymru has three overarching objectives:

- To represent the interest of EV owners and drivers in Wales
- To promote the uptake of EVs in Wales
- To work with other stakeholders to achieve these aims

Electric Vehicles produce zero-emissions at the tailpipe and broader developments are also reducing any particulates resulting from tyres and other elements of travel on roads. EVs also produce significantly less noise, particularly at lower speeds, than combustion vehicles.

As such, EVA Cymru are strongly supportive of the general principles of the bill however we wish to bring attention to a number of elements which may aid scrutiny by the committee:

1. The ongoing publication of air quality data will be beneficial in understanding the changing impacts of travel as we move towards the UK-level ban of all sales of new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) cars and vans in 2035. In particular, the data will provide insights into where ICE vehicles continue to be prevalent and whether this is disproportionately impacting any groups or areas where further support, investment, promotions or interventions may be needed to support the transition to decarbonised transport.

As a result we feel it is essential that the data is published in an open format which allows analysis against other datasets including deprivation and other social indicators.

2. It is important that the National Targets are revised to deliver a continuing reduction in air quality, however we would encourage the Welsh Government to publish and consult on the methodology for any future revisions in order to ensure that they take account of the opportunities possible to reduce pollutants through technical and social changes.
3. The bill provides direct provision for the implementation of traffic restrictions, including Trunk Road Charging Schemes alongside Clean Air/Low Emission Zones in order to alleviate air pollution in specific areas. At the same time, local authorities are considering, and will continue to consider, charging schemes to alleviate congestion. It is important that these two approaches are



aligned and that there is clear messaging to the public as to the reason for any charging.

For Electric Vehicle drivers, whose impact on air quality is far below combustion vehicles, understanding the basis on which any charges are being made will be important to ensure ongoing public support and driving behaviours, including increased decarbonisation of transport, which support the aims of the bill.

4. The public sector, and its supply chain, is a significant transport user and, as a result, source of transport-related air quality and sound impacts. Whilst the Welsh Public Sector is seeking to decarbonise by 2030, this bill offers an opportunity to accelerate the decarbonisation and electrification of Public Sector travel in order to show leadership on reducing air and sound pollutants.

Finally, we would encourage broad engagement by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities in the promotion of air quality and soundscape improvements and the Clean Air Plan. Our experience shows that many are keen to make personal changes to support positive environmental benefits, including improvements in air quality within their local area, and the outcomes of this bill offer an opportunity for people to make more environmentally informed decisions (such as selecting a fully Electric Vehicle rather than a Hybrid Electric Vehicle).

These points will ensure that the bill's policy intention is achieved without unanticipated adverse impacts on EV Drivers.