



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael Matheson
Cabinet Secretary for Transport,
Infrastructure and Connectivity

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Pre-budget Scrutiny

As you may be aware, the Local Government and Communities Committee recently concluded its pre-budget scrutiny and wrote to the Scottish Government with its findings and recommendations on 31 October 2019.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to hear from the Scottish Government on issues raised in the letter ahead of receiving its formal response. Accordingly, it invited the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and the Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy to attend its meeting on 20 November.

As part of its scrutiny process, the Committee explored how effectively councils are managing the existing impacts of climate change and planning for change and services in the future. It heard about a range of measures being undertaken by councils including the extension of the vehicle charging network across Scotland.

During the 20 November session, the Committee highlighted evidence presented to it that the demand for electric cars would only increase if charging points and infrastructure capable of supporting future needs and demand are available throughout the country. It sought an update on the Scottish Government's plans to expand the vehicle charging network.

In her response, the Cabinet Secretary referred to the Scottish Government's commitment within its programme for government to continue to support charging to 2022 and to funding to add 800 charge points to the existing network. She referred also to work being undertaken with local authorities, SP energy networks, SSE plc and others on how best to effectively deliver the programme. The Committee recognises that charging points and infrastructure fall more specifically within the portfolio for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity and should be grateful to receive further detail of the Scottish Government's expansion plans in this area.

For your information, the Official Report of the meeting on 20 November is available on the Committee's website at the following link:

[Local Government and Communities Committee Official Report, 20 November 2019](#)

I should be grateful if this information could be provided to the Committee by Friday 3 January 2020 but if this is not possible please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dornan', written in a cursive style.

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee

