Department for Transport

Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018 Regulatory Report

January 2025 – December 2025

November 2026

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Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 19(2) of the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018

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Executive summary

This report sets out progress in implementing measures under the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018 (“the Act”) over the period January to December 2025. It builds on the previous reporting period (July 2023 to December 2024) and reflects the continued rollout and maturation of regulations supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the UK.

The Act contains a provision requiring the Secretary of State to produce a report for each reporting period outlining the impact and effectiveness of regulations made under this part of the Act and the need for subsequent regulations to be made in future. This report covers the reporting period from January 2025 to December 2025.

During this period, the focus of Government activity has shifted from introducing regulations to overseeing their implementation and effectiveness. Key consumer experience requirements under the Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 – including contactless payment, reliability standards, and data provision – have now come into force, and early evidence on compliance and market response is emerging. In particular, roaming requirements came into force in November 2025, and the first annual reliability reporting cycle has been completed. As the enforcement authority for the Regulations, the Office for Product Safety and Standards have carried out enforcement and monitoring activities that included

physical inspections, processing of reports and reviewing compliance with the open data requirements. In addition, they have engaged extensively with industry to support compliance with the Regulations.

As in previous reports, this report focuses on Part 2 (electric vehicle charging), as the statutory list of automated vehicles required to trigger reporting on Part 1 has not yet been published.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Automated and Electric Vehicle Act 2018 (“the Act”) provides Government with powers to support the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and prepare for the deployment of self-driving vehicles in the UK.

1.2. The Act enables regulations to improve the consumer experience of public charging, ensure provision of charge points at key strategic locations like motorway service areas, and require smart functionality to support a more flexible electricity system.

1.3. The Act also established the initial framework for the safe deployment of automated vehicles, including clarifying insurance liability. This framework has since been further developed through the Automated Vehicles Act 2024, which introduces a comprehensive regulatory approach to self-driving vehicles.

1.4. Under the Act, the Secretary of State is required to report on the impact and effectiveness of regulations and on the need for further regulatory intervention. This report covers the period from January 2025 to December 2025 and focuses on regulations made under Part 2 of the Act, as the statutory conditions for reporting on Part 1 have not yet been met. Reporting on Part 1 is required within two years of the Secretary of State publishing a list of automated vehicles, which has not yet occurred.

1.5. The report provides further detail on the following regulations that have been made under the Act:

- The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023, which aim to improve the consumer experience at public charge points. These regulations were made under Sections 10, 13 and 14 of the Act.
- The Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021, which require charge points to have “smart” capability. These regulations were made under Section 15 of the Act.

1.6. This part of the Act provided Government with powers, through secondary legislation, to:

- **Improve driver experience of electric vehicle infrastructure**, by ensuring interoperability between networks, consistent technical standards, and the provision of open data on infrastructure location and availability of public charge points.
- **Help overcome ‘range anxiety’ and facilitate longer journeys**, by requiring provision of electric vehicle infrastructure at motorway service areas and large fuel retailers and a duty to consider making regulations upon request by an elected mayor.
- **Mandate that charge points have ‘smart functionality’ and meet certain device-level requirements**, to support the transition to a smart and flexible energy system by managing the additional electricity demand from electric vehicles.

1.7. These powers remain unchanged from previous reporting periods.

2. Public Charge Point Regulations 2023

Description of the Regulations

2.1. The Public Charge Point Regulations (PCPR) came into force on 24 November 2023 and are designed to improve the consumer experience at public charge points through provisions made under section 10 of the Act.

2.2. As described in previous reports, the Public Charge Point Regulations include the following provisions:

2.3. **Making it easy to pay.** The Regulations set out requirements for contactless payment at public charge points, meaning that consumers can charge their vehicle and pay with ease, as they would for any other service. It was mandated that contactless payment must be made available for newly installed charge points of 8kW and above, and for existing and new rapid charge points of 50kW and above, within one year of the regulations coming into force. Contactless payment must enable payment by physical contactless bank card but may also accept digital wallet payment. Alongside this, consumers must be able to pay without entering their login details. This requirement came into force in November 2024.

2.4. **Roaming.** The Regulations mandate that charge point operators (CPOs) must offer roaming at all their public charge points through at least one third party roaming provider, allowing consumers to access and pay across multiple charge point networks using a single app or RFID (radio frequency identity) card. Fleet managers will therefore be able to easily aggregate bills from electric vehicle charging. This provision came into effect in November 2025. Ahead of this, since December 2023, CPOs have been required to report to the enforcement body on their existing payment roaming providers, and subsequently whenever their roaming providers change, within 28 days of a change.

2.5. **Ensuring a reliable charging network.** Electric vehicle consumers should feel confident that the UK charging infrastructure is reliable and easy to use. The Regulations mandate a 99% reliability requirement across each CPO’s rapid network of charge points of 50kW and above, which will be measured as an annual average. This includes key charge points on the Strategic Road Network (SRN), trunk roads and motorway service areas. The Regulations also mandate that CPOs must report their compliance with the reliability requirement on their websites and submit an annual compliance report on their reliability. These requirements came into force in November 2024 and the first reliability reports for the 2025 reporting period, with the first reports due to be submitted in January 2026.

2.6. **Helpline provision.** To improve the consumer experience across the public charging network, the Regulations mandate that all charging networks for public electric vehicle charge points must provide a free 24-hour staffed helpline to support consumers when they experience an issue trying to charge their electric vehicle.

2.7. **Opening up charge point data.** All drivers should be able to locate available and working charge points easily when they need to charge their vehicle. The Regulations therefore mandate that charge point operators make data about each of their public charge points publicly available, including whether it is working or in use. We have mandated that charge point operators must open their data in accordance with the mandated data standard and keep their data accurate and up to date.

2.8. **Pricing transparency**. To support clear and consistent information for consumers on the cost of charging, the Regulations mandate that the total price of the charging session must be clearly displayed in pence per kilowatt hour and must not increase once charging has commenced. This requirement came into force in November 2023.

Impact and effectiveness

2.9. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is the Enforcement Authority for the Public Charge Point Regulations 2023.

2.10. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Regulations and to maximise their impact, OPSS has undertaken extensive monitoring and enforcement work over this period. This has included physical inspections of over 300 public charge points across 78 sites, covering a range of city centre, urban and rural locations. This activity also included the administration and processing of 434 helpline reports, and 120 payment roaming provider reports. OPSS has also reviewed Open Data compliance across 138 known charge point operators.

2.11. In addition, OPSS has undertaken extensive engagement with industry over this period to support compliance with the Regulations. This has included attending trade exhibitions, engaging with trade bodies, and participating in conferences to raise awareness of these requirements. They received and responded to 1,117 enquiries, including targeted outreach to alert operators to their obligations.

2.12. As at the end of December 2025, OPSS reported that:

- 98% of inspected CPOs had established a free 24/7 helpline;
- 95% of inspected CPOs were providing an open data feed;
- 76% of charge points inspected were compliant with the contactless requirement; and

- 86% of inspected charge points were compliant with the pricing requirement.

2.13. With regards to reliability, 2025 was the first year in which CPOs were required to report on the reliability of their network of rapid charge points of 50 kW and above. OPSS advised that 57% of CPOs reported reliability of 99% or above, and 80% reported reliability of 95% or above. OPSS is continuing to work with industry to improve compliance levels and the quality of the data reported.

2.14. 2025 was the first full year for which the majority of requirements under the Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 were in force. Government plans to publish more detailed information on industry compliance in future. We will publish data for the year from January 2026 to December 2026 in Summer 2027.

3. Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021

Description of the Regulations

3.1. As described in previous reports, the Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021 set out requirements under section 15 of the Act to ensure that charge points have smart functionality.

3.2. Electric vehicle smart charging involves shifting charging to a different time of day, such as overnight when there is lower demand on the electricity system, or to times of high renewable energy generation. This can help reduce the need for costly electricity network reinforcement to meet increased demand from electric vehicles, and offers benefits to consumers too, including savings on their energy bills.

3.3. The majority of the Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021 came into force from 30 June 2022, except for the cyber security requirements which came into force on 30 December 2022. These Regulations set out requirements for all private (domestic and workplace) electric vehicle charge points sold in Great Britain to have smart functionality and comply with

minimum device-level standards, using powers under Section 15 of the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018.

3.4. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the requirements.

Impact and effectiveness

3.5. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero conducted an initial evaluation of these Regulations, published in December 2024. This evaluation found that, broadly, the Regulations had been positively received by industry and consumers alike. From an industry perspective, the evaluation found that the Regulations had enabled industry to deliver a range of smart charging products and solutions. It was reported that in Q1 of 2023, 90% of the charge point models available on the market contained all features required under the Regulations, except for security features that had been implemented at a later date (December 2022). These findings provide evidence of the effectiveness of the Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021 in supporting the widespread adoption of smart charging requirements across the market.

3.6. Based on these evaluation findings and bespoke industry engagement, government consulted in late 2025 on small technical amendments to refine these requirements as part of a broader consultation on energy smart appliances. The intention is to replace the Electric

Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021 under the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018 with a broader set of regulations for energy smart appliances (which include electric vehicle smart charge points, electrical heat appliances and smart batteries) under the Energy Act 2023.

4. Next steps

Consumer Experience

4.1. The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 came into force on 24 November 2023, with a phased approach to the requirements coming into effect between November 2023 and November 2025. The Government continues to engage with industry bodies to refine guidance and maximise compliance with the Regulations.

4.2. Stakeholder feedback suggests that the Regulations could benefit from some updates to reflect evolving business models and the growing role of roaming networks, support improved implementation in complex areas such as open data, and reduce the reporting burden on industry. The Government is therefore exploring the potential for some targeted amendments to the Regulations, with a consultation planned in due course.

Smart Charging

4.3. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will publish its consultation response on the proposed Energy Smart Appliances Regulations later in 2026. It is proposed that these regulations will be made under the Energy Act 2023 and will provide a single set of regulations covering electric vehicle smart charge points, electrical heat appliances and batteries.

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