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Electric Vehicles

Let’s talk fleet EV myth-busting

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Introducing Electric Vehicle Myth-Busting For Fleets

There are over 1.25 million electric vehicles on the UK roads today but, despite growing popularity, there is still significant Electric Vehicle misinformation in the public domain.

In this guide, we're going to fact-check some common misconceptions, asking the questions that matter to fleets today:

- Are electric vehicles really more expensive?
- Is the charging structure up to scratch?
- Are batteries and range where they need to be?
- Is 2025 the year of the electric van?

The time is coming when you'll be unable to purchase new petrol or diesel vehicles as the UK government seeks to reduce carbon emissions and put the country firmly on a path to a greener and more sustainable future. Don't let misinformation hold your company back from accelerating your electric vehicle adoption plans.

Let's bust some electric vehicle myths...

It’s all about the money

Are electric vehicles really more expensive than petrol and diesel equivalents? Let’s take a look at the facts...

Are electric vehicles too expensive for business fleets in the UK?

While EVs may have higher upfront costs than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, a combination of new market entrants, operational costs, and government support makes them a cost-effective choice for business leases. Operational costs can, then, be significantly lower for EVs than for ICE vehicles.

Analysis from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) reveals that EVs can cost up to £700 less annually than petrol counterparts due to reduced fuel and maintenance costs. That’s partly driven by the fact that EVs have fewer moving parts—20 compared to over 2,000 in ICE equivalents—typically leading to reduced service and repair needs.

EV tyres can be more expensive, though, so that’s worth factoring into fleet maintenance budgets.

Now, let’s quickly examine charging costs (and we’ll go in depth on this later...). Home and workplace charging are incredibly cost-effective, and fleets can make significant fuel cost savings as reimbursement rates currently stand at 7 pence per mile for fully electric vehicles. Public charging can be significantly more expensive than home or workplace charging, so it is critical to understand where vehicles will be charged to get an accurate picture of fleet costs.

Used Electric Vehicles are coming...

The day of the used EV could be coming, with AutoTrader's latest motoring forecast reporting a growing number of three- to five-year-old EVs cost the same or less than their petrol or diesel counterparts.

There's also some interesting stuff happening regarding the affordability of the vehicles themselves. Entry-level EVs, like the Dacia Spring, Mazda MX-30 and the Peugeot e-2008, show that affordability is increasing while a good fleet management partner is always able to get extremely competitive rates on company car favourites such as the Tesla Model 3 and Model Y, MG4, BMW i4 and VW ID.7. And remember, leasing through salary sacrifice schemes provides substantial savings due to inclusive costs like insurance, servicing, and maintenance.

The government aren't committed to helping get more electric vehicles on the UK's roads

The Autumn Budget 2024 focused on electric vehicles and gave lots of reasons for companies to continue with their EV adoption journeys.

Businesses will have the certainty of low Benefit in Kind (BIK) rates, increasing by two percentage points each year from 5% in 2025 to 9% by 2027/28. An increased Vehicle Excise Duty differential favourable to EVs when compared to ICE vehicles is also positive, with a commitment to a wide variety of grants for installing charging points and plug-in vans in place (check out the UK Government grants available at Zero emission and electric vehicles). And remember, EVs are also exempt from congestion and emission charges, which can contribute to substantial savings in urban areas.

Your need-to-knows

Help is at hand - check out government incentives, from low BIK rates to congestion charges and grants.

Reduced fuel and maintenance costs mean EVs can be around £700 year less expensive to run than petrol equivalents.

New makes and models are making electric vehicles more affordable than ever before.

The used EV market is growing and is a great option for businesses and the public alike.

It’s all about the charging

- Is charging an electric vehicle really as difficult as some would have you believe?
- Could it be more convenient than refuelling a petrol or diesel vehicle?
- Are you going to run out of charge en route to an important meeting?

One of the most common concerns for fleets considering a switch to an electric vehicle (EV) is charging.

In a recent YouGov survey examining barriers to EV adoption, four out of the top five barriers were charging-related. We’re here to help dispel the myths and confusion surrounding EV charging and demonstrate how it can actually be more convenient than refuelling a petrol or diesel car.

Charging starts at home

Being able to charge at home is one of the key benefits of going electric and the majority of EV drivers, around 93%, do just that.

Home charging is both cost-effective and straightforward, especially if you have a driveway or garage, and with the right EV policy you can support your people to charge at home. Common fleet approaches include helping employees with the cost of installing a home charger, such as interest-free loans or paying for it outright – this initial outlay will almost certainly prove cheaper in the long run.

Location	Annual Mileage	Cost
Home	10,000	£523.18
Public charger	10,000	£1,297.78
Charging 70% home / 30% public	10,000	£755.55
Annual fuel cost (medium-sized car/petrol)	10,000	£1,554.64

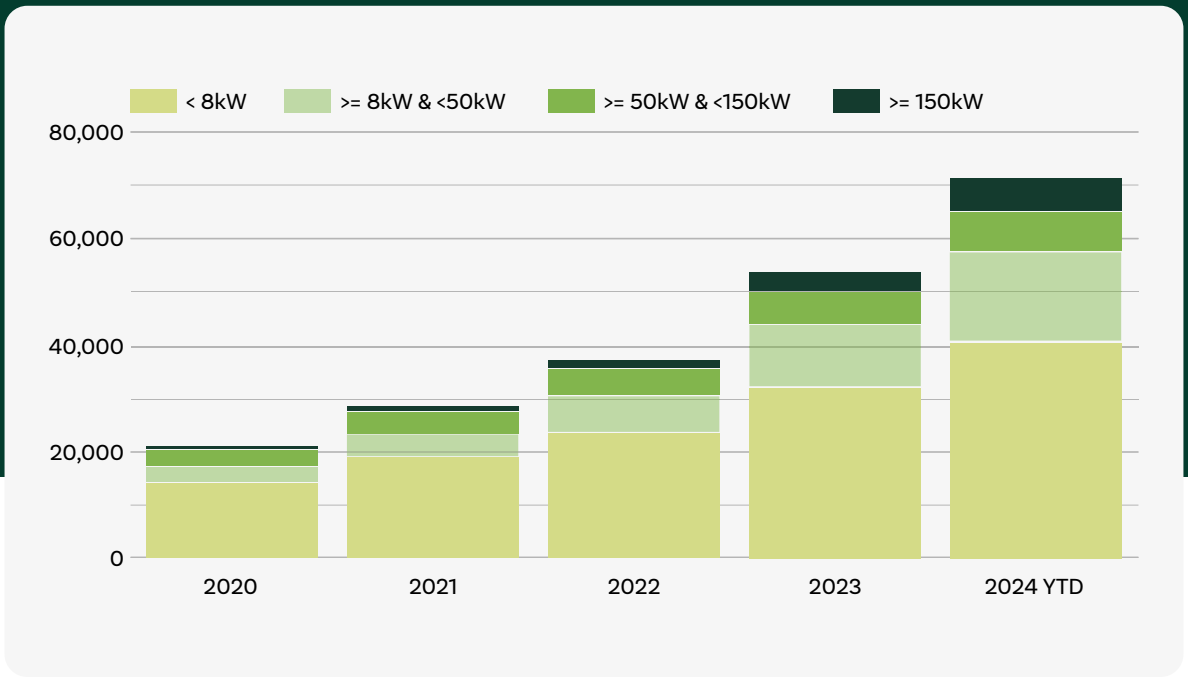
Source: Energy Savings Trust July 2024

The public charging route simply isn't there!

We're not so sure... let's summarise it in charge points and charging experience.

The charging network is growing fast, in line with government plans to install at least 300,000 public charge points by 2030. Zapmap reports that the number of public charge points has increased from 53,865 at the end of 2023 to more than 70,000 at the end of October 2024 - a 32% uplift in charging devices since December 2023. The proportion of ultra-rapid (150kW+) charge points has also risen each year - from 36% in 2021 to 70% year to date in 2024.

Number of public charge points in the UK



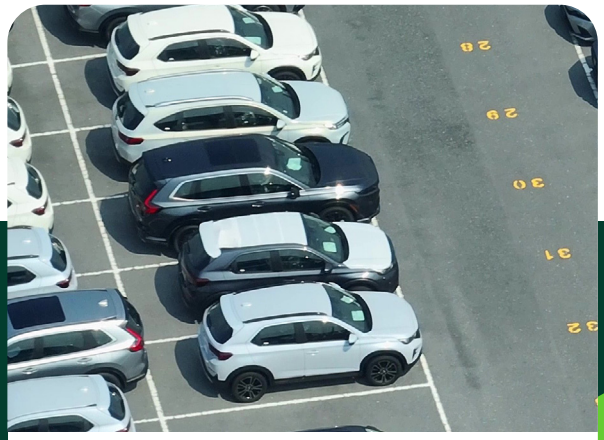
Source: Zapmap database, UK devices, October 31st 2024

There's also a focus on the charging experience with the UK government bringing in new regulations to ensure that consumers can easily locate the right public charge point to fit their needs, payment is easy, public charge points are in good working order, and prices can be compared across multiple public charge point networks.

Your workplace can help too...

Workplace EV charging is a great option to facilitate employee transition to electric cars - 48% of UK employers have installed EV chargers, with 32% planning to invest in charging infrastructure in the year ahead.

The government has also made grants available for businesses looking to install chargers:



EVF Infrastructure Grant

For staff and fleets, aimed at small to medium enterprises (SMEs).

Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS)

Open to registered businesses, charities, public sector organisations and small accommodation businesses.

None of this matters, the grid can't handle it!

We hear a lot of misinformation about the UK National Grid and its ability to handle widespread EV take-up. We take our steer from the National Grid itself.

Fun fact: If everyone moved to EVs overnight, the grid estimates that power requirements would only increase by around 10%, which is well within the range the grid can handle.

Electric cars aren’t capable of handling the distances required to encourage drivers and businesses to make the switch.

We’d argue yes, but don’t take our word for it; let’s trust the data. According to the EV database (November 2024), the range for an electric car on a single charge continues to increase, with 235 miles now being the average.

Check out some more examples in from the EV database table below.

Electric car model	Quoted range
Mercedes-Benz EQS 450+	425
Audi A6 Avant e-tron performance	350
Tesla Model 3 Long Range Dual Motor	325
Volkswagen ID.5 Pro	285
MG4 Extended Range	265
Kia Niro	240

Let’s finish with our favourite stat on EV driving range.

According to the AA the proportion of electric vehicles in the UK running out of charge in June 2024 dropped to the lowest ever level. Figures show that out-of-charge breakdowns on EVs, calculated as a percentage of all EV breakdowns, were at a record low of just 1.4% in June 2024.

Your need-to-knows

Consider the right workplace, home and public charging split for your fleet.

Get set to test – identify the charge point provider that works best for your business, take 3-5 vehicles from your fleet, make use of government grants and run a 3-6 month EV pilot.

Familiarise yourself with the public charging network – the charge point numbers, speed and experience are only going one way.

Trust the range, 300 miles plus is quickly becoming the standard for popular fleet cars.

It’s all about the vans

- Are electric vans really unsuitable for your business?
- Lack of charging holding you back?
- Not enough choices available in the electric van market?

Let’s see how valid these queries, and more, are as we move into 2025.

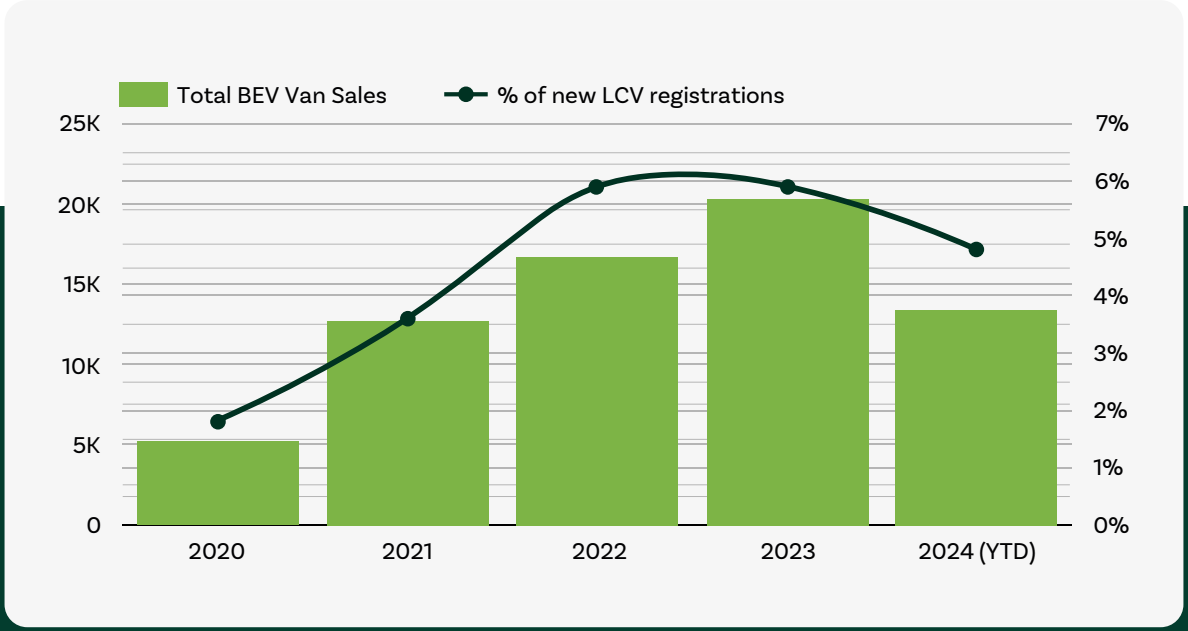
Vans are the lifeblood of the UK economy, and according to the SMMT, more than five million are now on our roads. That’s a lot of vans and a lot of air and noise pollution.

Enter stage left, electric vans - offering a green and cost-effective alternative for fleets. We’re looking at the latest information to dispel some EV myths and see whether switching to electric could work for your light commercial fleet. We’ll cover the business benefits, available grants, a range of practicalities, innovative new vans and how to get started.

Electric vans: In numbers

At the end of September 2024, Zapmap reported that there were 65,000 electric vans on UK roads. Its data shows that 13,436 electric vans have been sold in the UK in 2024, equating to 4.8% of all new van sales, although take-up has slowed over the last year.

Annual UK electric van registrations and market share



Source: SMMT, September 2024

Is there a lack of good electric vans in the market?

There's a lot of innovation going on in the market right now, with new manufacturers entering the market and existing Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) introducing vans with increasing range and payload capabilities.

Here's three of our most exciting new fleet vans to look out for in 2025:

Renault Master E-Tech

Large van which has already won multiple awards including 'International Van of the Year 2025'. Read more at Parkers.

Load Capacity	up to 1,625Kg
Range	up to 285 miles
Availability	Orders open. Deliveries from December 2024.

Skywell '233'

The Chinese brand will debut its large van at the CV show 2025. It is expected to be available in 3.5-tonne and 4.25-tonne variants with the production name still to be announced. Read more at FleetWorld.

Load Capacity	up to 1,755 Kg
Range	TBC
Availability	2025, date TBC

Kia PV5

First of Kia's PBV (van) range. Medium sized van which offers the same seven-year 100,000-mile warranty as its passenger cars. Read more at Car Magazine.

Load Capacity	TBC
Range	TBC
Availability	Late 2025, TBC

Let’s talk range...

With this influx of new models come onto the market, range is improving, and there is now a good selection of electric vans with a range of over 200 miles. However, **it is important to remember that real-world range will be different** and is affected by factors including payload, driving style, outside temperature, and tyre pressure.

Here’s our top 5, +200mile range vans:

Ford e-Transit Custom 320 L1H1 65kWh100

Learn More

Toyota Proace Electric 75kWh

Learn More

MAXUS e DELIVER 3 50.23kWh

Learn More

VW ID Buzz Cargo 79 kWh

Learn More

Citroën ë-Dispatch 75kWh

Learn More

Vans can't rely on the charging infrastructure.

We've already covered a lot of ground on the charging infrastructure, and the pace of change that's sweeping through the charging industry, from suppliers to government, to innovation, to funding, is significant.

Electric vans are too expensive, end of conversation.

Are they really though? We accept that, just like electric cars, electric vans typically have a higher upfront cost but whole life costs tend to be lower. There is also support available towards the initial vehicle cost and charging infrastructure installation, the current grants are all confirmed until 31st March 2025.

Let's take a specific look at the funding that's available.

The Plug-in Van and Truck Grant

Some low-emission vans are eligible for a government grant, which the seller includes as a discount on the purchase price.

The maximum discount available for small vans is £2,500 and £5,000 for large vans.

Full details of the Plug-in Vehicle Grant are available online.

Workplace Chargepoint Grants

The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant for staff and fleets is available to small and medium-sized businesses.

- Provides money off the cost of wider building and installation work required for multiple chargepoint sockets
- Covers 75% of the cost of the work, up to a maximum of £15,000
- Up to 5 grants across 5 different sites

Visit Gov.UK for more information.

Fleet electric vans in 2025

Your need-to-knows

- Assess your existing van fleet - identify which vans and/or routes could be switched to electric or work with an experienced provider to do this for you.
- Choose the right electric vans to match your fleet needs.
- Create a charging plan - work out where vehicles will be charged including the proportion of home, work and public charging.
- Apply for relevant grants.
- Train your drivers - education is key on electric van operation including how to charge and best practice eLCV driving .

6 steps to Electric Vehicle Myth-Busting and EV fleet success

1 Understand your fleet

From analysing your current driving patterns, mapping these to suitable EVs and helping you understand your Total Cost of Ownership EV v ICE comparisons, we'll help you to fully understand your fleet EV opportunity.

2 Get set to test

Start small with a 3-5 electric vehicle pilot, whether it's vans or cars we're confident you'll quickly get the confidence you need to consider wider fleet adoption.

3 Bring your people with you

Educate your drivers on EV best practice, from charging to maintenance, alongside identifying employees who are keen to be early EV adopters, is a great place to start from. And remember, having a robust, up-to-date EV policy for your people is an essential.

4 Get charger ready

Consider your charging needs, work with a preferred supplier and secure those workplace grants to help with the cost. And familiarise yourself with the public charging network – the charge point numbers, speed and experience are only going one way.

5 Take the support!

The Autumn Budget 2024 gave companies many reasons to continue with their EV adoption journeys. There's the certainty of low Benefit in Kind (BIK) rates, an increased Vehicle Excise Duty differential favourable to EVs when compared to ICE vehicles, and a commitment to a wide variety of grants for installing charging points and plug-in vans. And remember, EVs are also exempt from congestion and emission charges.

6 Monitor, measure and celebrate your success

Track metrics like fuel cost savings, emission reductions, and operational uptime, making the most of this data to refine your EV adoption strategy and to showcase your success!

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For more information
on how fleet electrification
can supercharge your business,
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