

Dear Member,

NFDA Northern Ireland (NFDA NI) update – May 2022

Following the elections that took place earlier this month and saw Sinn Féin take the largest number of seats (27, followed by the DUP with 25), NFDA Northern Ireland will continue to engage with Ministers on behalf of our franchised dealer members.

Last week, we held a constructive meeting with NFDA Northern Ireland's Steering Group.

Although the committee acknowledged that the elections stalled several issues, a number of key industry themes were part of the discussions.

Regarding MOT, it was noted that whilst the political focus has shifted away from the issue due to the elections, the circumstances remain problematic from a practical point of view. NFDA NI will write to all new Ministers to arrange meetings and discuss the matter.

The uptake of electric vehicles was also discussed. NFDA NI has been lobbying to highlight the lack of suitable charging infrastructure and how this is currently undermining the progress of the sector. NFDA NI has recently met with the CBI as they are currently conducting a survey to investigate further the charge point situation in Northern Ireland. We will keep our members updated.

NFDA provided updates also on the Online Sales Tax following the association's recent response to HM Treasury's Call for Evidence, seeking clarity on behalf of dealers. Further details will follow.

Also, NFDA NI updated its members on the association's response to the Competition and Markets Authority consultation on the Block Exemption Regulation, outlining NFDA's position and concerns. You can read [here](#) NFDA's latest update on Agency Models.

For further details, please do not hesitate to contact us.

To learn more about **NFDA NI**, request further details and information about our most recent Steering Group meeting or to learn more about **the** work we have been doing on behalf of our members, please email Lena at lena.patel@rmif.co.uk

Automotive News

New car sales drop by over 2% during April as Northern Ireland's favourite revealed

Belfast Telegraph, 5 May 2022

Despite a 2% decline in April, sales of new cars in Northern Ireland for the first four months of 2022 are nearly 11% higher than the same period last year. Family car the Hyundai Tucson has been Northern Ireland's most popular new car so far this year, with 406 sold.

[Read the full article here](#)

UK used car sales grow in the first quarter of 2022

Used car transaction grew in the first quarter of 2022 although they remain below pre-pandemic levels. As new car sales continue to be impacted by the ongoing supply constraints, consumer appetite for second-hand vehicles remained robust in the first quarter of the year.

The UK's used car market rose 5.1% in the first quarter of 2022 with 1,774,351 transactions, according to the latest SMMT figures. There were 86,596 more cars changing hands compared to the same period in 2021. Despite this increase, used car transactions remain -12.2% below pre-pandemic levels.

Used car sales in Q1 were driven by a strong market in January and February, with rises of 17.7% and 7.4% respectively; whilst March saw a decline of -6.8%. Used battery electric vehicles (BEVs) saw an impressive 120.2% growth; plug in hybrids (PHEVs) and hybrids (HEVs) rose by 35.3% to 14,433, and 28.8% to 35,007 units respectively. Petrol and diesel continued to account for the vast majority of used sales (over 96%), with plug-in vehicles comprising 3.6% of the total market share, up from 1.6% in Q1 2021.

Economy update

UK private sector slumps as cost of living crisis hits customer demand

Businesses in the UK private sector reported a sharp slowdown in activity in May as the current cost of living crisis, and the war in Ukraine, hit customer demand. According to the S&P Global/CIPS composite, the purchasing managers index (PMI) came in at 51.8 during the month, down from 58.2 in April. Although any reading above 50 indicates growth, it was the slowest rise since the COVID lockdowns in March 2021

Source: [Yahoo Finance](#)

Government borrowing lower than expected in April

Government borrowing was lower than expected in April, although the figure was still the fourth-highest total for the month since records began. Borrowing was £18.6bn, down £5.6bn from April last year.

Source: [BBC News](#)

UK Electric vehicle charging device statistics: April 2022

Statistics on the number of publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in the UK, broken down by local authority for January to March 2022. Data is provided by the electric vehicle and charging point platform [Zap-Map](#) and is correct as at midnight 1 April 2022.

Headline figures

As of 1 April 2022:

- There were 30,290 public electric vehicle charging devices available in the UK
- Of the total devices available, 5,494 were rapid chargers

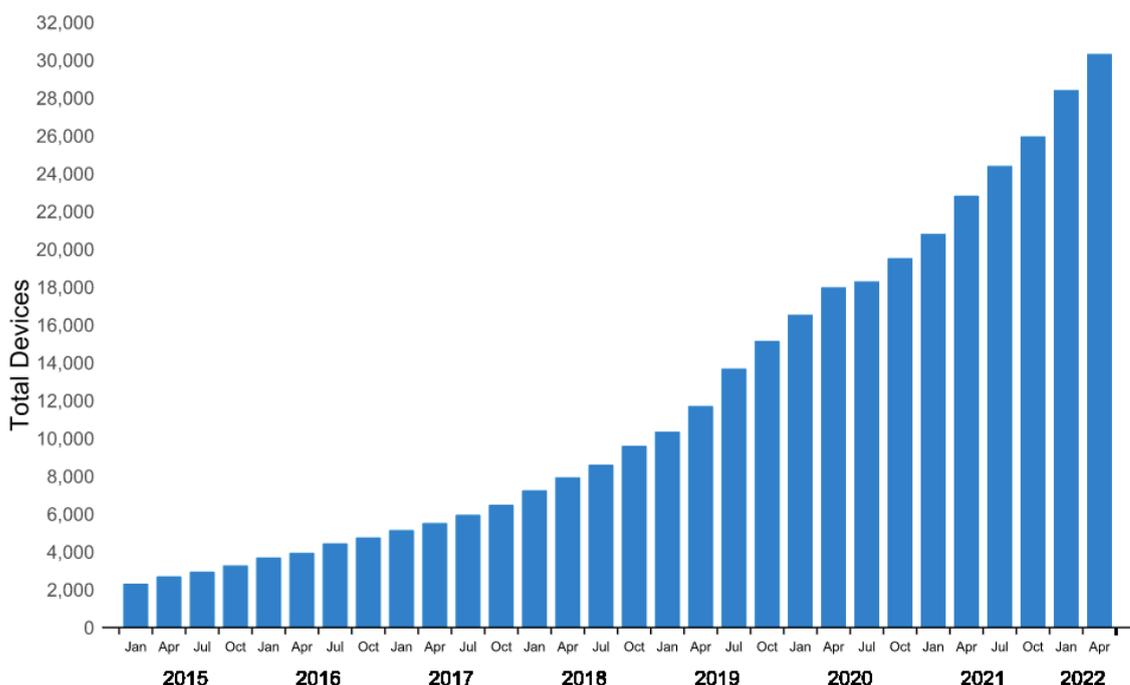
Compared to 1 January 2022:

- Available devices increased by 1,915, an increase of 7%
- Rapid devices increased by 338, an increase of 7%
- There was an increase in total and rapid devices across all regions of the UK

UK growth in public charging devices

Since 1 April 2021, the number of public devices has increased by 33%, corresponding to 7,500 devices. The number of rapid devices increased by 29%, with an additional 1,235 public devices. [Table EVCD_01a](#) and [Table EVCD_01b](#) provide a breakdown of public charging devices in each local authority in the UK whilst [Table EVCD_02](#) shows the change in the number of devices since 2015. These tables are published alongside this report.

Chart 1: Growth in UK public charging devices since 2015 (table EVCD_02)



Northern Ireland news

NI Protocol: US politicians one-sided on Northern Ireland, says DUP

A delegation of US politicians visiting the UK and Ireland has a "one-sided" view of the Northern Ireland Protocol, DUP politician Gordon Lyons has said.

The nine-strong team is led by Congressman Richard Neal. Mr Neal said the US would be "unwavering" in its support of the Good Friday Agreement. The DUP says the protocol will destroy the agreement.

Source: [BBC News](#)

Weev to build 1,500 EV charging points across Northern Ireland

Belfast-based startup Weev will invest £20m to install 1,500 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across Northern Ireland.

The public EV charging network will be spread across 350 locations, situated in convenient areas such as car parks. Weev is aiming to have the first charge points installed by mid-2022, with the network fully completed by the end of 2024.

The network will include six "ultra-rapid" charging sites, which Weev said are able to fully replenish an EV battery in less than 20 minutes.

Source: [UKTN](#)

Your monthly legal case studies



- [MILS case study: recruitment and discrimination](#)

"We are recruiting for a new technician. I have been through the applicants and there are two strong candidates. The most qualified candidate however has said in his application form that he suffered from depression in the past but claimed it doesn't affect his work at the moment. I don't want to take the risk if he proves to be unreliable, so I was going to choose the other candidate. I presume that is okay?"

- [MILS case study: transfer of undertakings \(protection from employment\) regulations 2006 with an asset purchase](#)

"We are looking to purchase the trade and assets of another existing business. As we are not interested in purchasing the Company itself, what is our liability to the employees currently employed in that business?"

We look forward to continuing to best represent your interests in 2022. If you have any questions for us or require any assistance from your trade association, please contact lena.patel@rmif.co.uk or our member helpline at 01788 538303.

Member Benefits



Legal
Helpline



Monthly
Newsletter
and Industry
Insights



Regular
Meetings
and Events



National
Conciliation
Service



NFDA
Representative
Northern
Ireland



Ongoing
lobbying
and policy
updates



Member-only
guidance

Be Part of NFDA NI

The core purpose of the NFDA NI is to lobby Northern Ireland's local government by developing existing relationships and establishing new ones within relevant departments and agencies to outline dealers' priorities and safeguard their business matters.

NFDA NI members can benefit from the wide range of NFDA services plus dedicated resources, including a representative based in Northern Ireland to regularly engage with the government and other relevant parties on behalf of dealers.

NFDA NI members are BETTER INFORMED

Our members get access to free legal advice. We communicate you all relevant policy updates and guide you in line with regulatory changes. We ensure you are better informed through newsletters, industry updates, and regular meetings.

NFDA NI members are BETTER MANAGED

We understand your enthusiasm for the industry. We also understand how hectic our members' working lives can be. To help, we offer business advice, HR and Employment toolkits, commercial advice, and industry-led working groups to help you be better managed.

NFDA NI members EXCEED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Everything we offer is designed to help dealers improve performance. We provide access to a wider network, ensuring compliance, researching and providing data regarding our members' relationships with manufacturers. We enable real positive change for our industry, making our members more reputable and profitable.

To learn more about **NFDA NI**, the work we have been doing on behalf of our members and how you can benefit from your membership, please email Lena at lena.patel@rmif.co.uk