



The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minister House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR



07541711107



@CarolynThomasMS



@CThomasMS

Monday 27th September 2021

Dear Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP,

Re: Vehicle Scrappage Scheme

I am writing to you as Member of the Senedd for North Wales in relation to the UK government proposal to phase out the sale of all new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. As you will be aware, here in Wales, my colleague Ken Skates MS set out plans to provide full and proper access to electric chargers across the country by 2025 in preparation for the UK transition in 2030.

A number of constituents in North Wales have raised concerns regarding the cost of electric vehicles and the impact that the currently proposed transition will have on their personal finances.

The current proposals, aimed only at phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles, offer no incentive for those with the oldest, most polluting vehicles to switch to more environmentally friendly alternatives. Older, more polluting vehicles with diminishing monetary value are more likely to be owned by those with lower incomes; who in many cases will not be able to afford to switch from a petrol or diesel vehicle to an electric vehicle.

To expect those on low incomes to be in a position to finance the switch without any government support is both unfair and unrealistic. If the UK government is serious about reaching net-zero and halting climate change, it needs to be much more ambitious in its environmental offering. This would be in line with schemes promoting upgrades to domestic heating, such as the Welsh Government's highly successful Nest / Nyth programme.

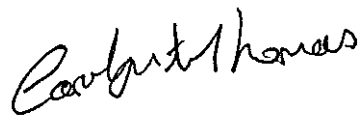
As you will be aware, a car scrappage scheme has been used before in the UK with great success, when in 2009, Gordon Brown launched a car scrappage scheme that saw approximately 400,000 older vehicles scrapped. A similar scheme could significantly increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads of the UK.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report shows that every further delay in acting will have devastating consequences for our way of life in the UK, which I know you share my ambition to avoid. Given the urgency of tackling the UK's contribution to global warming, if the Government decides not to implement such a scheme, I would be grateful for details of the action you are taking to ensure vehicle emissions are brought down as or more rapidly as under this proposal, without a high cost burden falling on the least able to bear it.

A radical car-scrappage scheme designed to significantly increase electric vehicle usage would be a necessary step in the right direction. More broadly, it should form part of an ambitious Green New Deal, aimed at helping the UK become net-zero by 2030.

I would welcome your commitment to a new vehicle scrappage scheme to ensure that the 2030 transition is inclusive of those from all economic backgrounds, as well as being as beneficial to the environment as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Thomas MS