

Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
http://www.parliament.uk/science
scitechcom@parliament.uk / 020 7219 8367

From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

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RE: Electric vehicle batteries

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee.

Your Department has stated its desire to significantly increase the uptake of ultra-low emissions vehicles in order to reduce transport sector emissions, an overall ambition that my Committee strongly supports. The Government's policies have focused mainly on supporting the development and deployment of electric cars. However, as indicated in the 'Road to Zero' strategy, there are concerns regarding the supply of many of the materials required to make batteries for such vehicles.¹

The 'Road to Zero' strategy outlined some initial measures that the Government intended to undertake in response to such concerns. I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of i) lithium, ii) cobalt, iii) nickel and iv) graphite does the Government expect to be required by the UK electric vehicle market annually over the next 10 years, and what breakdown of country of origin does it expect for each material over these years?
2. How is the Government working with industry and international partners to ensure the availability and affordability of lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite for use in electric vehicles in the UK?
3. What is the Government doing to ensure high levels of recycling of such materials from scrapped electric vehicles?
4. What is the Government doing to ensure responsible mining of battery materials internationally?

¹ Department for Transport, '[Road to Zero](#)' (2018), p74—see also: European Commission, '[Report on Raw Materials for Battery Applications](#)' (2018); evidence to the Science and Technology Committee from the Geological Society ([CGE0051](#)), para 6; and Amnesty International, '[This Is What We Die For](#)' (2016)

You may also wish to note that my Committee is publishing its Report on Technologies for meeting Clean Growth emissions reduction targets on Thursday 22 August. The then Minister of State for Transport, Michael Ellis MP, contributed to our inquiry. Your department as well as the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will receive an embargoed copy of the Report on Tuesday 20 August.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by Tuesday 3 September 2019.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair