



## LowCVP's Andy Eastlake

### The new political landscape and low carbon vehicles

After all the 'what ifs', 'maybes' and confident predictions, May 8th brought the unexpected news that it was back to majority government business-as-usual. So what does the new Conservative line-up mean for the low carbon road transport sector?

Before the election, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his own commitment to tackling climate change in a cross-party announcement intended to reassure low carbon investors and send a clear signal as we approach the landmark climate change conference later this year in Paris.

We have a new minister responsible for the whole low carbon transport sector. Andrew Jones, the MP for Harrogate, is now getting to grips with his new brief but he recently welcomed the substantial increase in the number of new ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) registered in the UK – an impressive, near four-fold increase in registrations in the first quarter of 2015 compared with the same period a year earlier – to a total of over 9,000.

The Minister welcomed the impact of the Go Ultra Low campaign which he said is making low carbon vehicles an increasingly popular choice. He also reaffirmed that the government will be investing £500 million over the next five years in making ULEVs more accessible to families and businesses across the country.

We're very pleased that Jones will be making perhaps his first public speech on the low carbon agenda at the LowCVP Conference on 24 June; a further encouraging signal that the new government is not planning any rapid changes to a policy backdrop that has delivered sustained progress in recent years.

The new minister does have the added challenge, of course, of the recent supreme court ruling on air quality and this is likely to feature high on his list of near-term priorities in this area. Under the ruling the government is required to set out by the end of the year, how it will meet the required reductions in pollutants in our worst affected urban areas.

The other critical area facing the new team is how to deliver the 10 per cent of transport energy from renewable sources by 2020. With the EU position now established, the UK must act quickly to lay out a clear plan to deliver significant carbon reductions from the transport fuels sector.

The LowCVP Conference 2015 – The Energy for Future Transport, June 24, Westminster will ask 'Can Formula E can electrify mainstream motoring?' Read more on page 34.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

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