

Disabled Motoring UK

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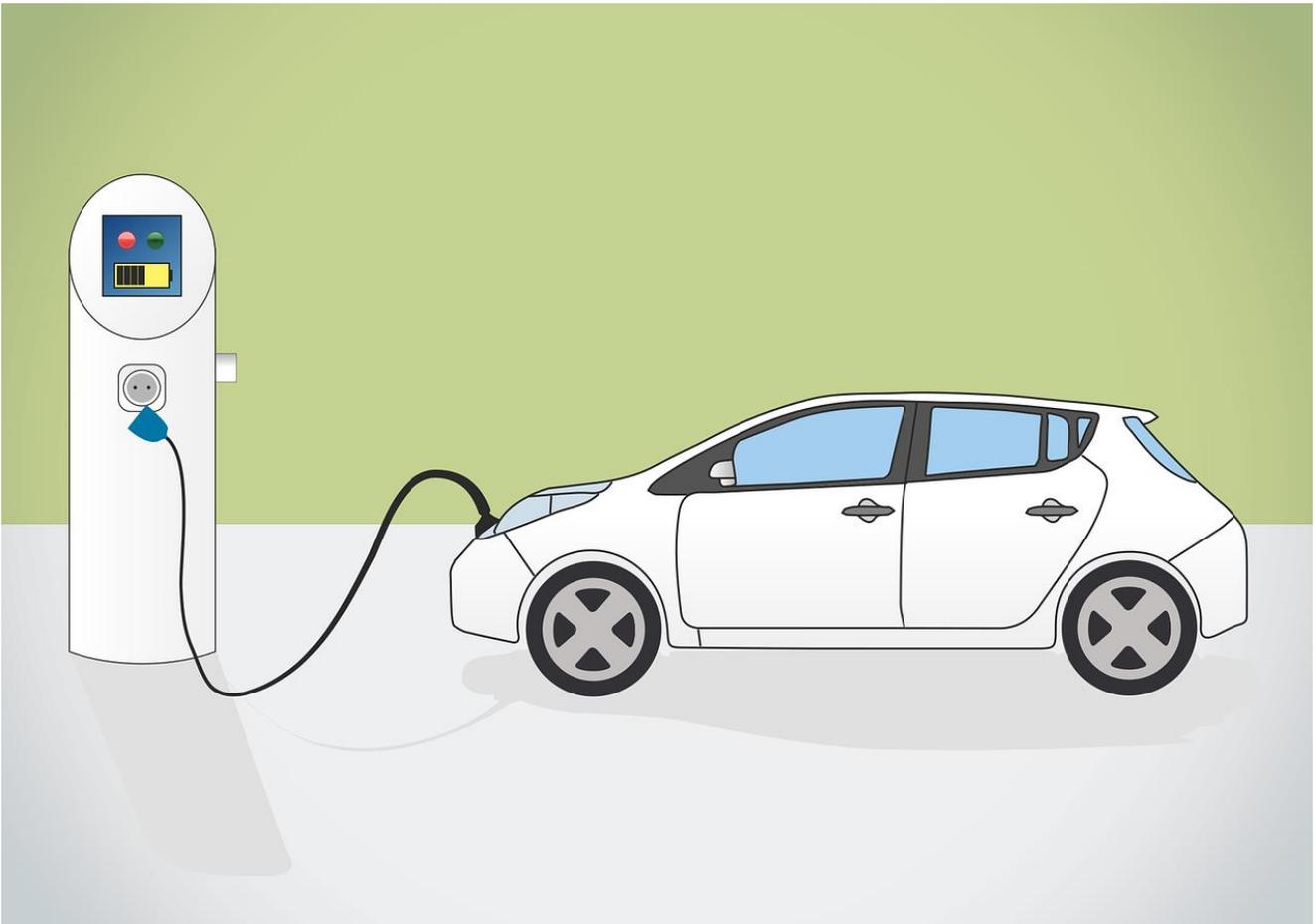
Access to EV REPORT



Register charity no: 1111826



Executive Summary.....	2
Vehicle Choice.....	3
Costs.....	4
Charging Infrastructure.....	6
Overall Worries.....	8
EV Transition.....	10
Conclusion.....	11



Executive Summary

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In April 2022 Disabled Motoring UK was awarded funding from the National Lottery to research the worries and concerns which disabled motorists have regarding the ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles in 2030 and switch over to electric vehicles (EVs).

The charity had heard lots of anecdotal stories from disabled motorists about EVs over the past few years as EVs have become more widespread. The charity knew there were concerns over vehicle choice, costs and charging infrastructure. However, it struggled to find any statistical evidence about what worries them most. The 'Access to EV' survey sought to address this. With background knowledge the charity developed a questionnaire to be able to effectively measure what worries disabled motorists.

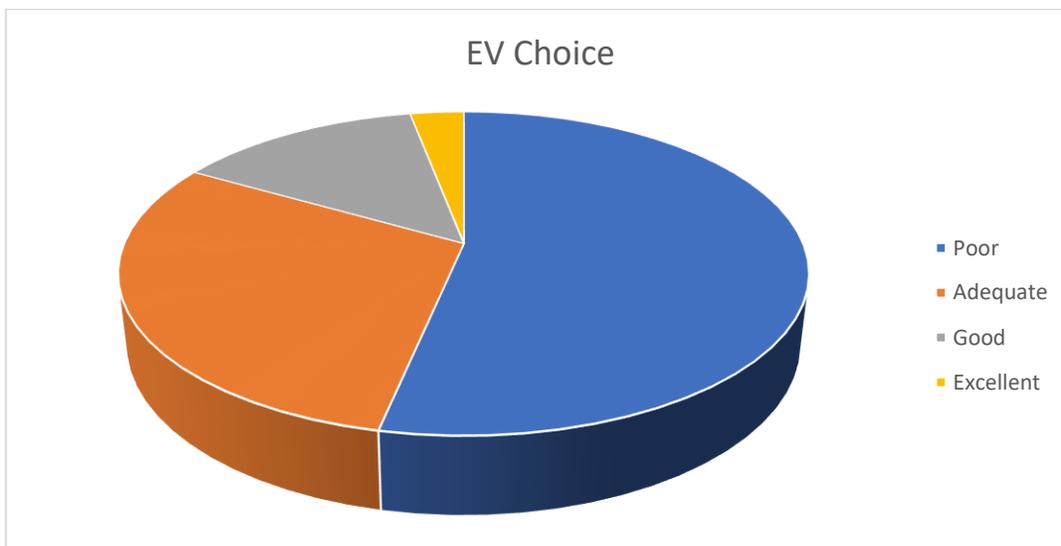
As the survey developed the charity soon realised that it needed to develop a different survey to present to participants at face-to-face events. The full survey which was published in our magazine and online was far too lengthy to ask people to complete when at a disability event. A shorter survey was put together for these situations consisting of just 5 questions, compared to the full survey which consists of 17.

With the help of supporters and online social media promotion the charity has managed to survey over 2000 participants, giving it some useful data on the issues that need to be addressed. This was broken down to 1806 responses to the 17 question survey and 211 to the 5 question survey.

Vehicle Choice

Vehicle Choice

In establishing a base line of how prepared disabled motorists are at present the survey asked if they had carried out any research into EVs with 66.5% responding that they had carried out research and 33.5% hadn't. Two thirds of disabled motorists have given their motoring future at least some thought. Delving further the survey asked how they would describe the vehicle choice available. Over half of respondents (53.3%) described this choice as poor, 30% as adequate, 13.7% as good and only 3% as excellent.

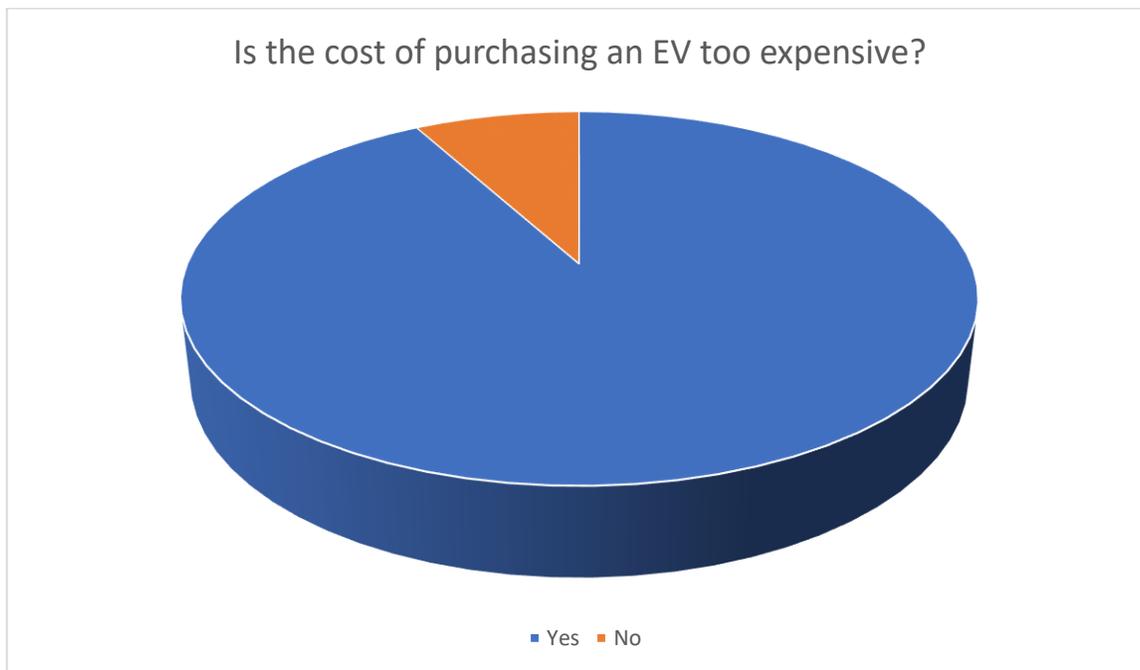


The survey went into more specific questions about the impact of batteries on vehicle performance and practicality. The first asked if the participant was aware of the impact of batteries diminishing storage space in a vehicle which might pose difficulty in carrying mobility equipment - 74% of participants were aware of this. The next was asking whether they knew that added vehicle weight, for example carrying mobility equipment, can affect the vehicle's mileage meaning more frequent recharging - 67% were aware of this.

Costs

Costs

The survey informed the participants that in 2021 the average cost of an EV was £44,000. We asked participants if this was too expensive for them. The overwhelming majority said yes (92%)



Participants were then informed that re-charging an EV is much cheaper than refueling an internal combustion engine vehicle with petrol or diesel. In 2021 the average cost to fully re-charge was £9.41. (This may now be considerably different given the recent energy crisis). The survey went on to ask if this reduction in running costs would outweigh the upfront costs. Participants were not convinced that the cheaper fueling costs would outweigh the upfront cost of purchase with 51% responding no and 22% responding they didn't know. Only 27% said that it would outweigh the upfront cost of purchase.

Costs

The last question relating to costs was the price of installing a home charging point which can be broadly estimated as costing £1000. If a person is a Motability customer in many cases Motability will install this for them at no cost. The survey asked if they were worried about the cost of installing a home charging point. This question provided a split results with 53% saying they were worried and 47% saying they were not worried.



Charging Infrastructure

Charging Infrastructure

This section looks at worries about charging an EV. The survey asked questions about at home and public charging.

HOME

When asked does your home have the facilities to have a home charging point installed (for example do you have off road parking) 61% said Yes. Meaning that 39% would be reliant on public charging. Nearly 40% of disabled motorists are going to be completely reliant on public charging infrastructure in the future.

PUBLIC

There are lots of problems with public charging infrastructure being accessible to disabled motorists. The survey asked - Do you think you could use public charging equipment independently? This questions had a split response with 50% saying yes and 50% saying no.

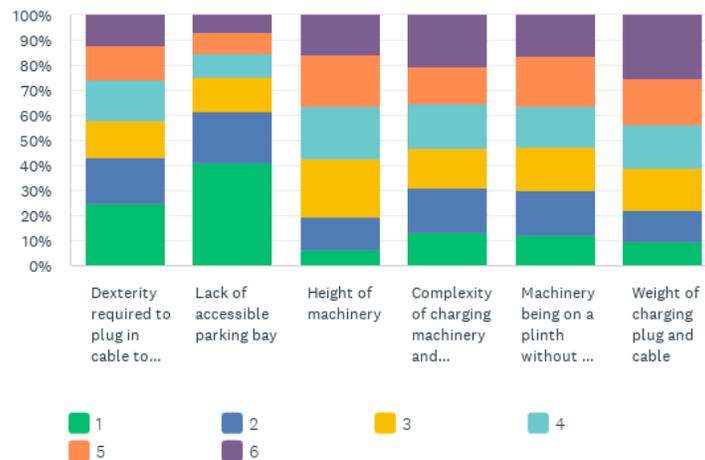
The survey then asked participants to rank in order from 1-6 what would pose the biggest difficulty to them when using public charge points. 1 being the biggest difficulty and 6 being the least. The options were:

- Dexterity required to plug in cable to charger and car
- Lack of an accessible parking bay
- Height of machinery
- Complexity of charging machinery and booking/payment apps
- Machinery being on a plinth without a dropped kerb
- Weight of charging plug and cable

The biggest problem was clear from the results with 41 % saying that the biggest difficulty would be a lack of a disabled parking bay. Most other results had equal weighting.

Charging Infrastructure

Q10 What aspect of using public charging would pose the biggest difficulty for you? Please order 1-6 with 1 being the biggest difficulty and 6 been the least



The next questions looked at waiting facilities while a vehicle was charging. The survey asked whether participants would like to see accessible waiting facilities at charging hubs – 93% said yes.

The survey asked how often do you undertake a journey where you would need to charge to complete that journey? Only 7.8% of participants never carry out a journey like this, 56% sometimes do, 25.5% often carry out journeys like this and 10% very often do.

The survey followed on by asking - How worried are you about the availability of public charging on such journeys? 87.7% of participants were either worried or very worried about the availability of public charge points on longer journeys. Only 12.3% were not worried.

Overall Worries

45.7% of people ranked the cost of purchasing an EV as the thing that concerned them most with the worry of charging on longer journeys coming in at second most concerning at 12.5%.



EV Transition

EV Transition

The last question of the survey was how likely are you to switch to an EV before the ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles comes in affect in 2030? Of participants 56% said unlikely and 44% said likely. The survey also asked - do you feel prepared for the switch to EV? Only 25% said yes and 75% said no.

Access to EV
Have your say

Do you have time to help us with our survey?

DM UK
DISABLED MOTORING UK
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www.disabledmotoring.org/AccessstoEV

Conclusion

Conclusion

The major worries that have come from the survey are the cost of purchasing an EV, the lack of accessible bays at charge points and the worry of charging on longer journeys.

EVs are becoming more widespread, but there is yet to be an established secondhand market for such vehicles. There is no clear understanding of resale values and secondhand EV reliability. This is off putting to all motorists wanting to make the switch especially with the cost of new EVs being so high.

The ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles is moving closer and it is clear from the results of this survey that more needs to be done so that disabled motorists can move forward with this transition. Some of the problems highlighted in the survey aren't unique to disabled motorists. The cost of purchase, the worry of charging on longer journey and availability of public charging will affect all motorists. However, the lack of accessible public charging is problematic. From the survey the biggest concern on public charging is the lack of a disabled parking bay. In recent BSI guidance issued on accessible public charging (PAS 1899) the provision of a disabled parking bay is just an annex to the document. Our survey suggests that this needs to be at the forefront of any guidance to make public charging truly accessible.