

Friday 19 December 2025

## **Uncertainty over EV policy threatens UK drivers' confidence to switch – AA UK EV Readiness Index**

- Uncertainty over EV policy dents confidence to switch
- EV insurance prices reduce, but used EVs become more expensive
- Overall readiness score grows, but remains under halfway at **48.8 out of 100**
- “Whilst the Index shows some progress, the conditions that support drivers' shift to EVs remain challenging for many.” says AA president

**Growing political and policy uncertainty is putting the brakes on drivers' willingness to switch to electric vehicles, according to the latest [AA UK EV Readiness Index](#).**

**The European Commission's plans to water down their 2035 zero-emissions target and recent calls from politicians to scrap the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, have created a climate of confusion and hesitation among consumers and manufacturers alike.**


This uncertainty is compounded by concerns over the proposed e-VED scheme, which would see electric car owners paying a new tax based on annual mileage from April 2028. While the intention to ensure EVs contribute to road maintenance is understandable, the timing and lack of clarity risk deterring some of those who were considering making the switch.

Despite a modest rise in the overall readiness score to **48.8** (up from 47.3 last quarter), the foundations of drivers' readiness to adopt an EV remain fragile. The AA's data shows that while EV insurance prices have fallen—offering some encouragement—used EVs have become more expensive relative to petrol and diesel cars, and a small uptick in 'out of charge' breakdowns due to colder weather has added to consumer nervousness.

### **Edmund King, AA president said:**

“Drivers are being buffeted by mixed messages and policy reversals. Talk of the ZEV mandate being scrapped or delayed, and the introduction of new taxes on EVs, risks undermining years of progress. Those already on the fence may now be stepping back to the familiar territory of petrol or diesel, rather than embracing the switch to electric.

“Whilst the Index shows some progress, the conditions that support drivers' shift to EVs remain challenging for many.



“The drop in EV insurance pricing at a slightly faster rate than for ICE insurance is great news for consumers, but there are wider concerns about used car pricing, where most private sales occur.

“If the UK is serious about accelerating EV adoption, 2026 must bring stronger, clearer guidance and meaningful incentives. Only then will we see real momentum and confidence among drivers to make the change.”

**ENDS**

## Notes to Editors

**AA PUBLIC AFFAIRS ON 01256 493493**

**[Publicaffairs@theAA.com](mailto:Publicaffairs@theAA.com)**

**[Press.office@theaa.com](mailto:Press.office@theaa.com) on 01256 495969**

**[Edmund.king@theaa.com](mailto:Edmund.king@theaa.com)**

December 2025 EV UK Readiness Index [AA EV Readiness Index Dec 2025 | AA](#)

First EV Readiness Index (September) [AA UK EV Readiness Index | AA](#)

Comprehensive AA member and driver insights on EVs can be found here:

<https://www.theaa.com/about-us/newsroom/aa-ev-viewpoint>

The AA's EV Readiness Index offers a comprehensive snapshot of how practical and appealing EV ownership is for UK drivers today. Drawing on proprietary AA data and expert sources, the Index tracks eight critical factors:

- Cost of new EV
- Cost of used EV
- [Cost of EV insurance](#)
- Cost of home charging & home charger
- [Cost of public charging](#)
- Access to charging
- EVs running out of charge
- [Roadside EV repair rates](#)

## About the AA

*The AA is the UK's leading provider of roadside assistance serving 17 million customers across breakdown and insurance. We have approximately 2,700 patrols attending an average of 9,000 breakdowns daily. We are rated by drivers as the first choice for electric vehicle breakdown, with the best trained breakdown assistance workforce providing national coverage for EV assistance. We have the largest EV trained workforce in Europe and are dedicated to ensuring our patrols are EV ready. All of our patrol force is EV Level 1 trained, and we refresh knowledge every 5 years. Some 99% of our patrol force are Level 2 EV trained. We dealt with 150,000 EV breakdowns last year which represents just over 4% of our workload and we fix more than 88% of EVs at the roadside. Despite driver concern about "running out of charge", we actually see fewer than 2% of EV breakdowns due to the vehicle being 'out of charge', which is trending down to the figure we see for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles running out of fuel. We also provide customer support to the majority of the leading charge post operators, giving us further insight into the challenges and opportunities of our charging infrastructure.*

*For our own fleet, we have an ambitious programme to 'test and scale' an array of alternative fuel vehicles from full electric recovery vehicles, plug-in hybrid vans and expanding our use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) instead of diesel.*

*The AA's mission is to create confidence for drivers now and for the future – anticipating drivers' needs since 1905 and striving to be always ahead. The AA provides services across its roadside businesses from AA Driving School and BSM, to DriveTech, the leader in driver education. In addition, AA Smart Care provides bookings for MOTs, maintenance, service and repair in AA certified garages. AA Cars is a trusted vendor of used cars with free history checks and breakdown cover. The AA's insurance broker offers motor and home policies, operating a diverse panel of underwriters including the AA's in-house underwriter, plus AA Financial Services and Accident Assist. The AA continues to invest in connected car innovation and digital services.*

Ends all