

Electric Taxi Case Studies

Aerobright Taxis

Aerobright Taxis are a private hire organisation based in Stafford. They operate 36 vehicles including six BEVs and were interviewed to provide specific insights into how they have found using the battery electric vehicles and the SWARCO chargepoints in the Staffordshire area.

The organisation first purchased a fully electric vehicle two years ago due to the potential cost savings and environmental benefits of doing so. Following this, they are now planning to adopt as many BEVs as possible going forward. This is due to the fact that they have found that running BEVs works very well for a large number of drivers and can make large cost savings (up to £9,000 per annum).

With use of opportunity charging between shifts they find that a double shifted electric Taxi can cover 350 miles or more a day.

However, they also noted that the uptake of BEVs is not beneficial for all drivers at present, such as those without home charging capability, where using public rapid chargers means that operations are not cost effective. It was also suggested that whilst some drivers are able to manage their time well, others require simple, clear instructions to use BEVs successfully for short local journeys only. Overall, the organisation would recommend the switch to BEVs to other companies, stating that they should “Go for it! You can save a lot of money if you avoid rapid chargers”.

Go Zero Travel

Andrew Taylor, COO of Go Zero travel commented ‘We have been running a fleet of 17 electric private hire vehicles since 2018 and have found that it is easy to do and beneficial for a number of reasons. Charging has not been a problem, utilising public chargers (from Tesla) and home charging. Vehicle range, whilst a key factor, can be effectively planned around and does not affect business. For example, for a 5-hour journey there would be a pre-defined stop agreed with the customer and we have found that they enjoy the comfort break and are generally very interested to hear about how we operate our EVs.

We save approximately 40% in costs when compared to using standard vehicles due to cheaper fuelling and exceptional reliability and low maintenance. We run vehicles with 250,000 miles that still drive like new, even finding that in addition to the lack of oil/filter changes, brakes last longer (200,000 miles plus). When buying used, we do not even consider the mileage as a factor for purchase, with 100,000 miles not a problem at all.

We have no hesitation in recommending other taxi or private hire companies to switch to electric vehicles, they are better for the environment, better on costs and the customer prefer them due to the quieter, more luxurious ride they offer.”