



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**



**Department  
for Transport**

### **ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description**

**Fellowship Title:** DfT Decarbonising Transport

**Host department:** [Department for Transport \(DfT\)](#)

**Host team:** Environment and Future Mobility directorate, engaging across a wide range of DfT policy teams

**Summary:** To investigate and build an evidence base related to an intervention that would reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.

**Policy topic:** Transport, NetZero

**Potentially relevant academic disciplines:** Behavioural Science, Economist

**Relevant research career stage:** Mid-career

#### **Practical details:**

**Start of 3-month inception phase:** December 2021

**Length of core placement:** 6-12 months

**FTE for core placement (range):** 0.5 -1 FTE

**Location requirements:** Flexible, occasional visits to London (in line with government guidelines in regards to COVID19) to engage with policy and analytical colleagues.

**Necessary level of security clearance:** [Baseline Personnel Security Standard](#) (BPSS), expected to take approx. 6 weeks to secure. [National security vetting: clearance levels - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **Detailed description**

Transport is now the largest carbon emitting sector in the UK economy and reducing carbon in this area is essential if we are to meet our legally binding carbon targets. The government is shortly to publish the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, which sets out the overall path to decarbonising the sector. However, there is still much work to be done to deliver the necessary carbon savings. We are seeking support in the development of further interventions to reduce carbon from transport.

There are many potential avenues for investigation and we would be open to discussing any proposals the appointed fellow has in this regard during the inception period. Some potential areas for investigation are set out below, to illustrate possible areas of work:

- How we change consumer behaviour to encourage carbon reduction from private car use in the period before fleet electrification (e.g. mode shift/car sharing etc).
- A consideration of the second-hand market and the potential levers that could increase the rate of petrol and diesel cars leaving the car fleet.
- Analysis of the distributional impacts of electric vehicle policies, considering the impact by income, age, gender and people with disabilities.
- How transport decarbonisation behaviour policies align and complement wider decarbonisation behaviour policies.

The successful fellow will sit in the Environment and Future Mobility directorate but engage across a wide range of DfT policy teams. Expected outputs are negotiable, but likely to include: interim reports/ presentations; final report and presentations (for presentation at a steering group or board, the most suitable board will be confirmed once the topic is confirmed).

We would welcome applications from individuals whose expertise covers several of the above priorities or who can focus in more detail on one. Policy is developing in this area, so flexibility and engagement on topics to cover would be welcomed.

**Opportunity-specific person specification:**

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

**Skills/ expertise:**

- (Either) social research methods skills – evidence base reviews, quantitative methods, qualitative methods.
- (Or) Good applied economic skills, including skills in primary and secondary data analysis and ability to synthesise evidence