Batteries for electric cars – how well have they been looked after?

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Nine out of ten used EV car buyers wish to know how well the battery has been looked after… Robin Roberts (WheelsWithinWales) reports:

- 87% back assessment on how well previous electric car owners have looked after the battery
- 83% want to know how long it takes to fully charge and 82% how much capacity has been

lost since new, shows new Startline Used Car Tracker
Almost nine out of 10 motorists (87%) say it is important to have an independent, certified used electric car assessment showing how well previous owners have looked after the vehicle's battery.

While 83% want to know how long the battery will take to fully charge, 82% also want verification on the amount of battery capacity that has been lost since new and 81% how much capacity it is likely to be lost in the future.

Additionally, 79% would like an indication of how much charge the battery currently holds, according to August's Startline Used Car Tracker.

Paul Burgess, CEO at Startline Motor Finance, said: "Probably the number one fear that consumers have when buying a used electric car is that the battery will fail or otherwise degrade very quickly. They know it could cost several thousand pounds to buy a replacement.

In real-world conditions, these worries are largely proving to be unfounded. There are now millions of electric cars on roads across the world and battery degradation is generally happening much more slowly than anticipated while outright battery failure, although not unknown, remains a rare occurrence.

However, used car buyers clearly want reassurance and some form of formal testing that shows the battery of the vehicle they are considering buying has been well-looked-after, with a good idea of how it is likely to perform in the future, is probably the best available solution to allay their worries."

He added that one of the promises made in the new Labour government's manifesto was the introduction of a standardised battery health check.

"In our view, this would be a very good idea. Having a government-backed and approved battery test that provided the information consumers want would be a very real boost for

the used electric car market, especially if it was backed by some form of warranty."

The Startline Used Car Tracker is compiled monthly for Startline Motor Finance by APD Global Research, well-known in the motor industry for their business intelligence reporting and customer experience programs. This time, 321 consumers and 62 dealers were questioned.

About the Startline Used Car Tracker

The Startline Used Car Tracker was launched in April 2022 to produce essential attitudinal data about the used car sector over time. Each month, it asks consumers about their propensity to buy, fuel choices and the factors that will affect used car purchases, as well as questioning dealers about their feelings regarding the prospects of the market, the challenges facing them and their online offering.

The research is carried out for Startline by APD Global Research, well known in the motor industry for their business intelligence reporting and customer experience programs.

About Startline Motor Finance

Founded in 2013, Startline is one of the UK's leading motor finance companies, providing flexible solutions to around half of the top 50 franchise dealers and 70% of the top 50 independent car retailers measured by turnover, as well as accounting for more than 2% of the motor finance market by volume.

It aims to deliver market-defining levels of customer service, compliance, innovation and insight. The company is headquartered in Glasgow where it employs more than 200 people and has a comprehensive sales presence throughout the whole of the UK.