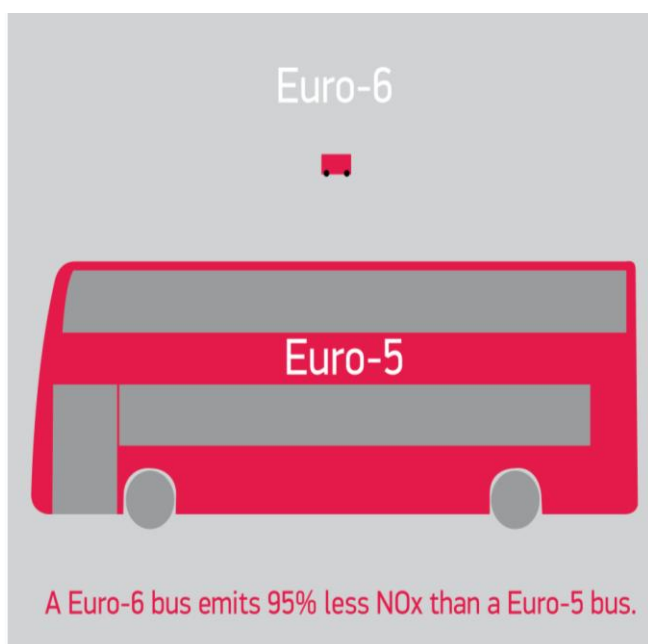


## SMMT – UK bus sector sees threefold rise in new low emission vehicles

More than half (53.5%) of all new buses and coaches registered in 2015 met the latest Euro-VI emissions standard, marking a threefold increase compared with 2014, according to data released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). The boost in demand comes as the regulatory period of grace which has allowed operators to specify older technologies for their fleets is due to end. As a result, this modern clean vehicle technology is now being widely adopted across the UK. Operators in Glasgow and Birmingham renewed the largest proportion of their fleets with Euro-VI vehicles, with more than four out of every five new buses and coaches registered in these cities meeting the standard. Meanwhile, in London, which has the biggest fleet in the country, just over half of new vehicles featured Euro-VI technology. The UK's 88,638 buses and coaches deliver 5.2 billion passenger journeys across 18.1 billion miles each year, and adoption of the latest low emission vehicles is an essential part of integrated effort to improve air quality in Britain's towns and cities.

(Source: [SMMT](#))



## Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee: Air Quality

The Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee will hold its third evidence session on Air quality on Wednesday 20 January at 2.30pm. The session will be held in Committee Room 15, Palace of Westminster. The Committee continues its inquiry with evidence from local authorities and the Greater London Authority on local action to cut air pollution, such as setting up low emission and clean air zones in cities. A second panel will provide evidence on agricultural emissions of air pollutants, such as ammonia, and greenhouse gases.

The Committee will take evidence from:

- Matthew Pencharz, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy to the Mayor of London
- Councillor Tony Newman, Local Government Association Board Member and London Borough of Croydon
- Councillor Nick McDonald, Nottingham City Council

(Source: [EFRA Select Committee](#))

## New testing laboratory to support plug-in vehicle market

Transport Minister Robert Goodwill opened a new testing facility in Milton Keynes that is expected to support government's pledge for every new car and van to be emission-free by 2040. Government has outlined that the [Intertek laboratory](#) is the UK's highest capacity electric and hybrid vehicle testing centre and aims to support the UK's objectives in being a world-leading plug-in car industry, providing better access to the latest cutting-edge technology necessary to test the components used in new models. The expanded site will employ 100 people in and around Milton Keynes and support highly-skilled jobs across the country by bolstering the industry's continued drive towards manufacturing greener, cleaner vehicles. (Source: [DfT](#))

## CBI – Economic update

The CBI's latest growth indicator showed growth edging up in December, corroborating our view that economic growth remains solid. However, the UK composite PMI indicated that growth slowed marginally in December (at 55.3, down from 55.7 in November). While decent, this remains below the somewhat stronger PMIs seen in the first half of this year and points to a slight loss of momentum in the second half of 2015. For Q4 2015 as a whole, both the PMIs and our growth indicator point to GDP growth of around 0.6% - a decent expansion, but slower than that seen over the first half of the year. The sectoral PMIs showed growth in the services sector remains robust and construction activity rose solidly, but manufacturing growth eased further. (Source: [CBI](#))

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## EEF – Risks to outweigh opportunities for manufacturers in 2016

UK manufacturers expect 2016 to be a year of tough decisions and more prominent risks, according to this year's annual [EEF](#) (The Manufacturer's Organisation) /Aldermore Executive Survey. Faltering confidence is expected to continue into 2016 as manufacturers contend with the ongoing global economic hangover from 2015 and a landscape where opportunities are outweighed by risks. While almost a quarter of companies (23%) see more opportunity than risk in the year ahead, they are outstripped by the 44% of manufacturers who see more risks. This pessimistic view is shared across sectors and is particularly strong amongst larger companies. (Source: [EEF](#))



## Week ahead

### Commons Committees

Monday 18 January

- Transport Committee (4.10am, Grimond Room) – Road Haulage Sector: Skills and workforce planning

Tuesday 19 January

- Treasury Committee (9:15am, room 8) – Economic and Financial costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU

### Commons Chamber

Tuesday 19 January

- Treasury questions (11:30am)

Wednesday 20 January

- Energy and Climate Change Committee (9:30am, Thatcher Room) – Future of carbon capture and storage in the UK
- Environmental Audit Committee (2:15pm, Thatcher Room) – Assessment of EU/UK environmental policy
- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (2:30pm, room 15) – Air Quality

### Lords Chamber

Monday 18 January

- Immigration Bill: Committee (Day 1 of 4)

Wednesday 20 January

- Immigration Bill: Committee (Day 2 of 4)