

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 13 April

### Nissan announces new model to be built in the UK

Nissan has announced that their all-new hatchback model is to be manufactured in the UK. Production, which will commence in 2014 at Nissans Sunderland plant, is expected to create an additional 225 jobs at Nissan and 900 at component companies supplying Nissan in the UK. This follows on from the company's announcement last month that it will manufacture the all-new INVITATION model in the UK next year, bringing the expected job creation for the two models to 3,000. Manufacturing capacity for the all-new hatchback model will be around 80,000 units each year and will require an extra shift to be created at the Sunderland plant. In addition, both production lines will operate 'around the clock' for the first time in the facility's 26-year history. The announcement was made as part of Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to the Nissan headquarters in Japan. The Prime Minister was visiting Japan as part of government's efforts to boost prosperity at home by strengthening relations with key trading partners overseas. Mr Cameron stated: "It is fantastic news that Nissan will be building their new hatchback model in the UK. It's proof of the strength and vitality of the British manufacturing industry". (Source: Number 10) <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/cameron-nissan-jobs/>

### 'Youth contract' launched by Nick Clegg

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, and Minister for Employment, Chris Grayling, have launched the 'Youth Contract', a £1 billion fund that aims to get young people into new jobs or training. Measures available in the Youth Contract include: cash payments of up to £2,275 to encourage employers to recruit young people aged 18 to 24 on government's Work Programme; an extra 250,000 work experience places over the next three years, taking the total to at least 100,000 a year; up to 20,000 new Apprenticeship Grants for Employers worth £1,500 to encourage new employers to take on new 18 – 24-year-olds, taking the total to 40,000 in 2012/13;

additional support worth £126m in England to help 55,000 of the most disengaged 16-17 year olds participate and stay in education, apprenticeships or a full time job with training. Commenting on the announcement, Mr Clegg stated: "Today is a major moment for Britain's unemployed young people. The message is clear – if you're under 25 and don't have a job, we are putting the money in to get you earning or learning through the Youth Contract. If you want to work or train, then we – together with businesses – will help you". (Source: Cabinet Office) <http://www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/boost-unemployed-young-people-youth-contract-opens-business>



### Motor Codes supports government call for powerful consumer voice

In response to the publication of government's Consumer Landscape Review, Motor Codes, the provider of OFT-approved codes of practice for the car industry, has welcomed the announcement that the government-backed self-regulatory model is set to continue as a key means of delivering consumer protection. Key changes proposed in the review include: Trading Standards Institute (TSI) to establish successor to Consumer Code Approval Scheme (CCAS) from April 2013; creation of a National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) to deliver strengthened enforcement of consumer protection and combat rogue traders; creation of a Competition and Markets Authority as a successor to The Office of Fair Trading and Competition Commission; Citizens

Advice to take on OFT's responsibility for delivering consumer information and advice. (Source: SMMT) <http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/04/motor-codes-supports-government-call-for-powerful-consumer-voice/>

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## UK trade gap widened in February

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that the UK's trade deficit widened in February 2012 to £3.4 billion from a revised £2.5 billion in January. The decrease in exports was driven by lower sales of cars (down £400 million) to countries outside the EU, including the US, Russia and China. The UK's goods trade deficit increased to £8.8bn in February from £7.9bn in January, and the services surplus was unchanged at £5.4bn. (Source: ONS) <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/uktrade/uk-trade/february-2012/stb-uk-trade-february-2012.html>

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## New National Careers Service launched

Government has launched the new National Careers Service. Combining face to face local advice with a new interactive website, the new National Careers Service aims to: provide information and advice for approximately 370,000 young people through the use of the helpline and website; offer face to face advice to 700,000 adults each year in a range of locations in local communities; provide detailed sector by sector labour market information so people can discover which industries are growing in their area; provide tools such as a CV builder and a Skills Health Check on the website to help people identify their skills strengths and gaps; allow people to open a Lifelong Learning Account, which gives them clear information and advice on skills, careers and financial support in a single, personalised online space. Commenting on the launch, Skills Minister John Hayes stated: "Making available the right advice at the right time and in the right places is to strike a blow for social mobility, social cohesion and social justice - a society that encourages people from wherever they start to journey to the destination of their dreams". (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2012/Apr/New%20National%20Careers%20Service%20launched>



## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

Thursday 19 April  
Transport questions – 10:30am

### Commons Committees

Tuesday 17 April  
BIS Committee – 10:30am, room 6  
Apprenticeships

### Westminster Hall

No relevant activity

### Lords Chamber

The House of Lords is in recess and will return on Monday April 23