

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 29 May

### Queen's Speech 2015

The May 2015 Queen's Speech marked the State Opening of Parliament, with the Queen delivering her first speech from a Conservative majority government since 1996. She outlined the one-nation programme of the Conservative government as she listed the 26 bills of David Cameron's second term as prime minister. A bill to permit the first referendum on Britain's membership of the EU since 1975 was at the heart of the speech. The bill was published this week and the referendum will be held by the end of 2017.

Other key legislation includes:

- A five-year lock on tax rises including VAT, income tax and national insurance.
- No income tax for those working 30 hours a week on the minimum wage.
- The extension of right to buy to housing association tenants.
- Further devolution of certain powers away from Westminster
- The creation of the Northern Powerhouse
- Tighter controls on immigration
- A counter-extremism bill to tackle radicalisation.
- A blanket ban on so-called legal highs.
- An increase in free childcare for three- and four-year-olds to 30 hours a week.
- Reform of strike laws to require a higher turnout of union members.

(Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/may/27/queens-speech-eu-referendum-bill-human-rights-act-david-cameron>



### EU Referendum

With the EU referendum bill announced as part of the government's legislative programme, David Cameron met with French President Hollande, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte, German Chancellor Merkel and Polish Prime Minister Kopacz this week to try and gather support for reforms in the EU from his European counterparts. Thus far, David Cameron has not set out in full the reforms he will be seeking. The EU Referendum Bill was published on Thursday 28 May, containing the details of the question and the commitment to staging the vote by the end of 2017. The question that is to appear on the ballot papers is: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union?" The Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on Tuesday 9 June 2015. (Source: Parliament)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/europeanunionreferendum.html>

### Strong UK market drives car production past 500k in 2015

New car manufacturing figures released this week show the UK surpassing the 500,000 milestone for car production this April, with 530,505 new cars built so far this year. Production for the domestic market is up 19.4% in the first four months of the year, reflecting strong performance in the UK new car market. The figures come as the UK automotive industry prepares for a wave of new models following billions of pounds worth of investment. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "UK car production has escalated in recent years and continues to perform steadily in 2015. Manufacturers across the country are poised to see yet more growth following multi billion pound investments and, providing global markets perform well, output is on track to reach record levels in the next few years."

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/05/strong-uk-market-drives-car-production-past-500k-in-2015/>

## April CV and engine manufacturing figures

### UK commercial vehicle manufacturing

Figures released this week by SMMT show uplift in the UK commercial vehicle production in April, with output up 36.8% on the same month last year. Following restructuring in the market, productivity has returned to form, with year-to-date growth of almost a quarter at 23.6%. Volumes have also been driven by rising demand from operators in the UK – and increasingly across Europe too. While the production increase in the first quarter was built mainly on growth in the UK market, April saw a 50.1% surge in manufacture for export.

### UK engine manufacturing

UK engine output is poised to push forward with high tech, low emission powertrains. Engine production remains steady in 2015, despite a dip in April volumes. However, there was strong export demand from Europe as the market continues to recover.

Furthermore, billion pound investments in UK engine manufacturing are to be realised in the coming months. “Engine manufacturing will play an increasingly important role in the UK automotive sector in the future”, said Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive. “More than £1 billion has been invested by manufacturers in building the next generation of new low-emission Euro-6 petrol and diesel engines in British plants, and we anticipate this will lead to increased output as these investments are realised.”

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/05/uk-commercial-vehicle-production-up-almost-a-quarter-in-2015/>  
<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/05/uk-engine-output-poised-to-push-forward-with-high-tech-low-emission-powertrains/>

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## London Mayor launches Low Emission Neighbourhood scheme

Boris Johnson has launched a new multi-million pound Low Emission Neighbourhoods scheme to tackle air quality hotspots. Up to two £1 million Low Emission Neighbourhoods will be funded as part of the Mayor's £20 million Air Quality Fund. The Low Emission Neighbourhood scheme encourages boroughs to look at a comprehensive set of solutions tackling various sources of emissions, changing

behaviour and raising awareness. These could include measures to encourage more walking and cycling, reducing through vehicle traffic, reducing the impact of freight and servicing, and using smarter parking charging. Boroughs are invited to apply for the Low Emission Neighbourhoods scheme by the end of July, with the first two schemes expected to be up and running by June 2016. In addition, the second round of the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF), which has committed £20 million for borough air quality projects between 2012 and 2021, will offer up to £400,000 to boroughs for individual projects.

(Source: Greater London Authority)

<http://www.london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2015/05/mayor-launches-new-multi-million-pound-low-emission>

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## Week ahead

### Monday 1 June

#### House of Commons

- 2:30PM: Queen's Speech debate on Britain in the world

### Tuesday 2 June

#### House of Lords

- Main business: Queen's Speech debate on home affairs, local government, energy, environment and agriculture

### Wednesday 3 June

#### Commons Chamber

- Main business: Queen's Speech debate on devolution and growth across Britain

### Thursday 4 June

#### Commons Chamber

- Main business: Queen's Speech debate on the economy

#### Lords Chamber

- Main business: Queen's Speech debate on business, economic affairs and transport