

### Transport Minister welcomes rise in take up of ULEVs

Transport Minister Andrew Jones welcomed the substantial increase in the number of new ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) registered in the United Kingdom. A total of 9,046 ultra low emission vehicles were registered in the first quarter of 2015 – a rise of 366% from the same period in 2014. Transport Minister Andrew Jones said: “I am delighted to see such a huge rise in the number of people buying ultra low emission vehicles. The Go Ultra Low campaign is making low emission vehicles an increasingly popular choice and the government is investing £500 million over the next 5 years in making them more accessible to families and businesses across the country. It’s a great example of Britain leading the way in developing sustainable transport options that are affordable for everyone.” (Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-minister-andrew-jones-welcomes-huge-rise-in-take-up-of-ultra-low-emissions-vehicles>

### Support for Automotive Council

This week, Iain Wright MP asked a question about future government support for the Automotive Council. Business Minister Anna Soubry responded on behalf of government stating: “The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will work closely with industry and businesses to understand their needs and what more the government can do to retain the UK’s competitive position within the global economy. The biggest challenge facing the economy is improving productivity and it is important to recognise that the productivity challenge is different sector by sector. Regular dialogue and working with business, including through the sector councils, as part of government’s wider industrial approach, is a vital part of that”. (Source: Parliament)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-08/1474>

### Westminster Hall debate on air pollution in London

MPs debated air pollution in London and city regions this week at a Westminster Hall debate moved by Dianne Abbott MP. The Parliamentary Under Secretary for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rory Stewart, responded on behalf of government. Key points of discussion included the importance of increasing the uptake of electric vehicles. MPs in attendance stated that the introduction of an ultra low emission zone was not happening soon enough and a number of MPs called on TfL to increase their expenditure on issues relation to air quality such as greater spending on cycle lane provisions.

(Source: Parliament)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2015/june/we-stminster-hall-debates-9-june-2015/>

### CBI: June economic forecast

CBI released its economic forecast for June 2015 this week. The economy enjoyed a strong expansion last year, growing by an upwardly revised 2.8% (2.6% previously). But the economy started 2015 on the back foot, with the GDP print for 2015 Q1 surprisingly soft, rising by a modest 0.3% on the quarter—the slowest pace in over 2 years. The CBI expects growth to rally in the second quarter of 2015, with average rates of 0.6% a quarter thereafter. This leaves the forecast at 2.4% this year (2.7% previously)—having been pulled down by the weakness in the data in 2015 Q1—before continuing to rise solidly by 2.5% in 2016. Nonetheless, certain risks to UK growth remain. A difficult resolution of the Greek crisis could spark financial market and exchange rate volatility which could spill over into the real economy. And uncertainty ahead of the EU referendum raises the risk around the forecast of reduced sentiment and a delay in investment spending. On the domestic front, the risk of weaker-than-expected productivity growth continues to pose a threat to achieving durable economic growth. (Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/economic-forecast-june-2015/>

## New online vehicle recall search tool to help motorists

The UK automotive sector, led by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and Motor Codes, has launched a new consumer-facing web portal to enable motorists to identify if their vehicle is on a safety recall list. Customers will also be directed to their nearest dealer so that any necessary remedial work can be carried out as quickly as possible. The Vehicle Safety Recall search tool, which operates using the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), is a one-stop-shop for car owners and buyers of used cars and vans to check if the vehicle is subject to an outstanding safety recall that they, or a previous owner, may have missed. The new service is available online via Motor Codes ([motorcodes.co.uk](http://motorcodes.co.uk)), the automotive industry's government-approved regulatory body, and is funded and managed by SMMT. (Source: SMMT) <http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/06/uk-automotive-sector-launches-new-online-recalls-search-tool-for-used-cars-to-improve-further-its-excellent-safety-record/>

## David Cameron holds 'open and frank' EU talks

David Cameron has held what were described as "open and frank" talks with the Belgian prime minister over his plans for EU reform. Mr Michel said he respected the UK's decision to hold a referendum on its EU membership, but also warned against "discrimination of European employees" under any reforms to welfare. Mr Cameron has said he is "content" with the reception from leaders so far. The Prime Minister, who also spoke to his counterparts from Spain, Finland and Romania, is seeking support for his plan to renegotiate the UK's membership before holding an in-out referendum. He has said he wants to speak to all 27 EU counterparts about his agenda for reform and to set out the UK's intentions before they gather for next month's European Council meeting. Mr Cameron is pressing for changes including restrictions on welfare entitlements, greater powers for national Parliaments and an opt-out for Britain from the principle of "ever closer union". In the UK, the EU Referendum Bill passed easily on its second reading in the House of Commons this week. However, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond faced criticism from Conservative eurosceptics for abolishing the normal rules of *Purdah*, which prevents

the civil service from playing any role in elections, and for potentially allowing the "Yes" side to spend more money. Pro-Europeans attacked him for not allowing 16 and 17 year olds the vote. (Source: BBC) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33085903>

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## Driving licence changes

Government has this week announced that from 8 June 2015, the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence isn't valid and will no longer be issued by the DVLA. The counterpart was introduced to display driving licence details that could not be included on the photocard. These details include some vehicle categories you are entitled to drive and any endorsement/penalty points. (Source: DVLA) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-licence-changes>

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## Week ahead

### Monday 15 June

#### Lords Chamber

- Main business: Debate on support for trade and investment and the contribution such support makes to economic growth

### Tuesday 16 June

#### Commons Chamber

- 11:30am: Treasury questions
- Main business: European Union Referendum Bill

### Wednesday 17 June

#### Lords Chamber

- Main business: Debate on transport connectivity and infrastructure in the North of England

### Thursday 18 June

#### Commons Chamber

- Main business: European Union Referendum Bill