

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 4 July

### SMMT launch Sustainability Report and host Parliamentary Reception

Tuesday 1 July saw the launch of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual SMMT Sustainability Report and the annual SMMT Parliamentary Reception. The latest report outlines the social, economic and environmental figures for the year, as well as measuring the degree of change over the last 15 years. Overall the report gave a positive message, indicating that the industry has placed itself at the forefront of the sustainability agenda. Speakers at the event included Jon Dennison from GKN Plc, Professor David Bailey of Aston University and Dr Rupert Lewis from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Mike Hawes, Chief Executive of SMMT, chaired the launch, and commented on the growth of the report and the industry over the 15 year period. Most notably, the number of signatories on the report has now risen to 23, covering 96% of UK automotive production. Although many positive factors were noted during the event, the issue of skills which concerns many within the industry was raised during discussion, showing what a vital topic it is to the industry. The annual SMMT Parliamentary Reception was then held after the report launch, with speeches from Richard Burden MP, Shadow Transport Minister, and Robert Goodwill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport. The reception focused on the positive messages from the report for the industry, emphasising government involvement within the sector, and examining the vital need for the UK to maintain a strong voice within Europe.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/sustainability/#responsiveTabs>

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### Technology Strategy Board publishes blueprint for growth

The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) – the UK's innovation agency – has published its blueprint for growth, which outlines investments of over £400 million in British innovation. The Board's priorities for accelerating innovation across the UK are set out within the 2014-15 Delivery Plan. It outlines an ambitious plan for developing and nurturing the very best of British entrepreneurial talent. Through 88 new competitions, designed to find and fund top innovation ideas, key areas of investment include:

- £72 million to support initiatives in high value manufacturing
- £70 million to transport
- £82 million to energy

Alongside these funding announcements was the launch of two new Catapult Centres – in energy systems and precision medicine – and the establishment of a permanent presence in Brussels to champion British innovation abroad. Small businesses remain a key focus for the TSB, and there is continued strong support for small and medium enterprises through Smart, The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) and other programmes. The TSB will introduce a new, UK-wide, small and medium-sized business growth programme, providing a package of skills, mentoring and coaching support, giving micro and small companies the capability to progress, attract potential investors and grow their businesses.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-million-to-fund-growth-of-british-innovation>

### New cars, commercial vehicles and bus and coach registrations increase in June

#### New car registrations

In the first six months of the year 1,287,265 new cars were registered, a 10.6% rise and the best half-year total since 2005. For the month of June new car registrations rose 6.2% to 228,291 units. The number of alternatively-fuelled vehicle registrations has also

risen, up 51.3% to 23,337 units for the year-to-date. The market is now on track for 2.4 million new car registrations for 2014, up more than 6% on 2013.

### Commercial vehicle registrations

Total commercial vehicle registrations in June rose 25.5% to 33,941, rolling year up 16.4% to 344,762. The van market also saw growth with registrations for the month up 33.3%, with year-to-date volumes increasing 16.8% to 155,532 and rolling year up 16.0% to 293,428. Truck registrations saw a further decline to 3,229 units, down 19.2%. For the rolling 12 months however, strong registrations at the end of 2013 helped volumes to remain up 18.8% at 51,334.

### Bus and coach registrations

Registrations for the bus and coach market remained steady for June with a 0.3% rise, seeing year-to-date volumes remain up 3.4%. The purpose built sector saw a 19.1% rise in the month, leaving the year down just 6.3%. The converted bus market fell 16.8% in June, however the year-to-date remains positive, up 13.5%.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/07/new-car-registrations-june-2014/>

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## Adonis Growth Review published

An independent review by Lord Adonis published for the Labour Party, 'Mending the Fractured Economy', has been published. The review notes that despite the UK having numerous strengths such as education, research and innovation, growth within the UK is unbalanced. The review argues that government needs to become smarter and more entrepreneurial, nationally and locally. Working in collaboration with leaders across education, business, science and public services, it needs to facilitate innovation by promoting higher rates of business and export growth. Within the report Lord Adonis has noted 24 key recommendations to help achieve these aims, including reforming the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to equip it with expert teams focused on key industry sectors, to set up a Small Business Administration to promote small businesses across government, and to establish at least 100 University Technical Colleges by 2020 focused on growth areas of the economy.

(Source: YourBritain)

[http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/uploads/editor/files/Adonis\\_Review.pdf](http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/uploads/editor/files/Adonis_Review.pdf)

## Conclusions of CBI/Pearson Education and Skills 2014 survey announced

According to this year's CBI/Pearson Education and Skills survey, business want the education system to better prepare young people with the attitudes and attributes they need to succeed in the world of work. Over half (61%) of the 291 companies surveyed said they were concerned about the resilience and self-management of school leavers, and 33% said they were concerned with their attitude to work. However, 96% of firms stated that they were satisfied with young peoples' IT abilities when they enter the workplace. 85% of firms want businesses to focus on developing numeracy and literacy, and just over half (52%) would like schools to develop a greater awareness of working life among 14-19 year olds with support from businesses. Two-thirds of companies commented that they would be willing to take on a larger role in the school careers system. Commenting on the report, John Cridland, CBI Director-General, stated "There is a growing crisis in UK skills right now and our incapacity to meet growing demands for higher skills is putting the long-term prospects of the UK economy at risk. We need to create more apprenticeships, but also retrain current workers with in-demand skills in key sectors.

(Source: CBI)

[http://www.cbi.org.uk/media/2809181/embargo\\_00.01\\_4\\_july\\_cbi\\_pearson\\_education\\_and\\_skills\\_survey\\_2014.pdf](http://www.cbi.org.uk/media/2809181/embargo_00.01_4_july_cbi_pearson_education_and_skills_survey_2014.pdf)

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## Week ahead

### Houses of Parliament

Monday 7 July

Presentation of bills

2:30pm House of Lords Chamber – What measures are they taking to encourage greater investment in scientific research and development within the United Kingdom

Tuesday 8 July

9.30am Business Innovation and Skills Committee:

Business-university collaboration, room 15

10:30am Science and Technology Lords Committee:

2025: Priorities for scientific research, room 4

Wednesday 9 July

3:00pm APPG for Freight Transport, CR9