

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 2 September

Red Tape Challenge to focus on environmental regulations

The Red Tape Challenge (RTC), a government initiative to cut regulation, will be focusing on the 287 environmental regulations that apply to businesses over the next three weeks, covering issues such as waste and emissions. The RTC asks whether existing regulations are providing the environmental protection that is intended and should therefore be retained, or if they are unnecessarily burdensome or redundant and should be scrapped. People are also being asked for suggestions on how regulations could be simplified to make them easier to follow and more effective, or if an environmental aim could be better achieved through an alternative non-regulatory way. Business Minister Mark Prisk stated: "This Government is determined to reduce the burdens that businesses face every day, and these include those relating to things like waste and emissions and other environmental issues".

(Source: DEFRA)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/09/01/red-tape-spotlight/>

Prime Minister David Cameron drives two millionth MINI off the production line

Prime Minister David Cameron has visited the BMW MINI Oxford plant, to drive the two millionth MINI off the production line ten years after the start of production. The Prime Minister was given the honour at the plant in Cowley where the new-look MINIs have been manufactured since 2001. Of the two million, more than 1.5 million MINIs have been exported to customers in more than 90 countries. Prime Minister Cameron stated: "The export success of the MINI and BMW's continued investment in its UK operations have helped contribute to a "real renaissance" for the UK car industry. MINI is not just a symbol of our industrial past, but also the great industrial future we want to build". (Source: Number 10)

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/oxford-mini-plant-boosts-uk-exports/>

Manufacturing PMI contracts for second consecutive month

Data released by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)/ Markit showed activity in the manufacturing sector shrinking for the second consecutive month. The PMI registered 49.0 in August compared to 49.4 in July. A PMI value above 50 indicates that the sector grew, while a value below 50 suggests a contraction. The index for output has contracted for the first time since May 2009, which reflects the cumulative effect of a fall in new orders in recent months. New export orders in particular have fallen, recording a reading of 46.6 in August from 53.8 in July, and in addition employment in manufacturing, has contracted for the first time since March 2010.

(Source: CIPS)

<http://www.cips.org/en-gb/aboutcips/news/pmi/>



Week ahead

Commons Chamber

No relevant activity

Commons Committees

Wednesday 7 September

Energy & Climate Change Committee -
EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Environmental Audit Committee -
Green Economy

Westminster Hall

Tuesday 6 September

Competition in the bus industry

Lords Chamber

No relevant activity