

## SMMT – New Car registrations increase 9.6%

The new car market recorded its 42<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month of growth in August – albeit in one of the year's quietest months – according to figures published today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. New car registrations increased 9.6% to 79,060 for the month, taking year-to-date growth to a healthy 6.7%. Gains were made across all sectors and all fuel types, with registrations in the private, business and fleet markets up 7.2%, 11.8% and 12.1% respectively. The market for alternatively-fuelled vehicles, meanwhile, grew 52.3% year on year, maintaining a steady 2.4% share of the overall market. (Source: [SMMT](#))

## Safer lorry scheme comes into force in London

London's Safer Lorry Scheme, which requires all HGVs entering the capital to fit mirrors and sideguards, has taken effect as of 1 September. Under the new scheme, HGVs without safety equipment to protect cyclists and pedestrians are banned throughout Greater London. Operators caught without these features when driving on London's roads will face a fine of up to £1000. Vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes entering London must be fitted with sideguards to protect cyclists from being dragged under the wheels in the event of a collision, along with Class V and Class VI mirrors to give the driver a better view of cyclists and pedestrians. In January the Mayor will consult on the principle of the scheme and the best way to enforce the new windows – whether through the Safer Lorry Scheme, the Low Emission Zone regulations or changes to the congestion charge. This consultation will be complete and a decision taken before the Mayoral election. In parallel, work will be done with cycling groups, vehicle manufacturers and the freight industry to develop a technical 'direct vision standard' so the windows are legally enforceable. It is hoped to have this work completed by March or April.

(Source: [British Cycling](#))

## EU referendum: Changes to campaigning rules announced

Government has agreed to change its planned rules on campaigning in the UK's in-out referendum. It has accepted there should be limits on ministerial activity relating to the referendum in the run-up to the vote. The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 sets out a 28-day "purdah" period ahead of any referendum, during which ministers, government departments and local authorities are banned from publishing material relating to the issue in question. Previously government had signalled that suspending the rules was necessary to allow the government to continue dealing with EU matters during the referendum period. Ministers have now conceded the purdah rules will be reinstated but with exemptions - such as allowing the government to conduct routine EU business, including issuing statements in response to European Council meetings and European Court of Justice rulings. The Foreign Office said it also reserved the right to further amend the regulations, subject to parliamentary approval, to allow ministers and others to communicate on the referendum in the 28 days before the poll "using normal communications channels".

### Change of EU referendum question

Government is poised to change the question for voters in an upcoming referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union. The change, which will be tabled as a government amendment to the legislation going through Parliament, comes after the Electoral Commission said the existing question risked favouring campaigners who want to remain part of the EU. Voters are now set to be asked: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?" The possible responses would be either: "Remain a member of the European Union" or "Leave the European Union".

(Source: [BBC](#))

# Final agenda confirmed for SMMT Open Forum in October

The final agenda has been announced for SMMT Open Forum in October. A strong line-up of speakers has been confirmed for the event, which will focus on the development of connected and autonomous vehicles, and provide some valuable insight into the supply chain. With keynote speeches from Nissan and Jaguar Land Rover, this is a fantastic opportunity to keep up to date with the latest developments in the UK automotive supply chain and how it could affect your business.

Speakers include:

- Mike Bell, Global Connected Car Director, Jaguar Land Rover
- Judith Richardson, Vice President Purchasing, Nissan
- George Gillespie, CEO, Mira Ltd
- Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles
- Michael Mychajluk, Supply Chain and External Engagement Manager, Jaguar Land Rover
- John Barnett, Vice President and Head of EU Manufacturing, Calsonic Kansei
- Nicklas Holgersson, Principal, Roland Berger

Open Forum takes place on 15 October, between 8:30am and 2:00pm at Cranmore Park Conference and Events Centre, Solihull. The full agenda can be downloaded [here](#). Attendance is free for SMMT members and £100 + VAT for non-members. For more information, visit the [event page](#), or [click here](#) to book. (Source: [SMMT](#))

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## EU referendum – UKIP to launch own campaign

UKIP says it will launch its own campaign against staying in the EU instead of joining the one of the two existing 'No' campaigns. Leader Nigel Farage believes UKIP can mobilise thousands of supporters of exiting the EU at public meetings. There will be only one official 'No' campaign to the UK's referendum. The Electoral Commission has yet to decide which group to designate as the official 'No' campaign for the referendum. Designation brings with it the benefits of higher spending limits, television broadcasts and a grant. (Source: [BBC](#))

## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

Monday 7 September

- European Union Referendum Bill: Report Stage and Third reading

Tuesday 8 September

- Finance Bill: Committee

### Commons Committees

Tuesday 8 September

- Treasury Committee – UK Financial Investments

### Lords Chamber

Tuesday 8 September

- Debate on Her Majesty's Government's plan to boost productivity in the United Kingdom

### Lords Committees

Tuesday 8 September

- Economic Affairs Committee (3.30pm, room 1)

