

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 5 October

Ed Miliband delivers 'One-nation' conference speech

Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Labour Party, has delivered his annual speech to the Labour Party Conference in Manchester. In the speech Mr Miliband labelled Labour the 'one-nation' party, vowing to unite the nation and lead it through tough economic times. Although light on policy, the speech did contain detail on how Labour would deal with employment and skills, with Mr Miliband stating the party would transform the lives of the 'forgotten 50% of young people in England who do not go to university', through the creation of a 'gold-standard' technical baccalaureate qualification to be taken at age 18 – with compulsory elements of Maths and English. Mr Miliband also stated that Labour would seek to reform apprenticeships through providing control of the £1 billion budget for on-the-job training to businesses and allowing firms more of a say in setting the standards for vocational qualifications. In addition, Mr Miliband noted that under a future Labour government, when the public sector offers contracts to the private sector they would ensure that every private sector contract would only be awarded to a large company that trains the next generation with apprenticeships. (Source: Labour)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/ed-miliband-speech-conf-2012>

New car registrations better than expected in robust September market

Figures published by SMMT show that the September new car market grew 8.2% to 359,612 units in 2012, exceeding forecasts by over 26,000 units. September is the second busiest month for new car registrations due to the plate change, and represents around 18% of the annual market, second only to March. In addition, the new car market has increased 4.3% to 1,620,609 units over the first three quarters of 2012 up 67,515 units. The commercial vehicle market also had a positive month in September, up 0.8% to 43,787

units and up 0.5% on the rolling year to 295,231 units. In addition, the bus and coach market grew 58.5% to 913 units in September, and rose 55% over the year-to-date. (Source: SMMT)

<https://www.smmt.co.uk/members-lounge/member-services/market-intelligence/vehicle-data/monthly-automotive-data/>

VOSA announce changes to MOT certificates to prevent clocking

VOSA, The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, has announced that the MOT certificate must now record the mileage of a vehicle for the current test, as well as the mileage recorded on the last three certificates. This change will come into effect on 18 November 2012 and means a more accurate vehicle history can be relayed to the potential buyer of a used car, with inaccurate mileage readings allowed to be corrected at the MOT testing station within seven days of the test. (Source: VOSA)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/>



SMMT hosts breakfast roundtable at Labour Party Conference

SMMT has met with key Labour Party politicians as the party gathered for its annual conference in Manchester. Hosting a breakfast event, SMMT discussed a recently published paper on industrial strategy and the sector's commitment to growth. Iain

Wright MP, Shadow Business Minister opened the round table, discussing the world-class goods and services produced by the automotive industry in the UK, and reiterating strong support for an active industrial strategy. He stressed the importance of collaboration between industry, government and Parliament as well as the need for certainty and stability in policy making for long-term investment decisions. Also attending the roundtable were Rt Hon John Denham MP, Rt Hon John Spellar MP, Richard Burden MP, Adrian Bailey MP and Ian Lucas MP. Representatives from Unite the Union, and other key stakeholders also joined the wide-ranging discussion. (Source: SMMT)

<https://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/10/smmt-holds-breakfast-roundtable-at-labour-party-conference/>

Honda confirms manufacturing of two new models in Swindon

Honda has confirmed that its Swindon manufacturing plant will be the base for production of two new models, the new Civic Type R and the all-new Civic Wagon model. Swindon is Honda's flagship production facility in Europe and already manufactures the regular Civic and CR-V models. The performance and estate versions of the Civic will come to the UK as part of the brand's efficiency drive that also saw the development and design of the Civic Wagon conducted in Europe. These developments come on the back of Honda's recent announcement of a £267 million investment programme in its UK facility to support the production of new Civic, new CR-V and a new 1.6 litre diesel engine. Making way for the new models, Honda will move production of the Jazz outside Europe. (Source: SMMT)

<https://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/10/honda-confirms-manufacturing-of-two-new-models-in-swindon/>

DVLA consultation 'Vehicle Online Services' launched

The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has launched a consultation on 'Vehicle Online Services', with measures proposed to allow motorists to go online to update their vehicle records, with the current system requiring motorists and dealers to write to the DVLA. Commenting on the announcement, Paul Everitt, SMMT Chief Executive stated: "SMMT supports initiatives that make car ownership easier for motorists and reduce the administrative burden on manufacturer approved dealers. The proposed

measures would allow swift, efficient and secure updating of vehicle records avoiding postal delays and enhancing the accuracy of information held by DVLA". (Source: DVLA)

<https://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/10/more-digital-services-to-benefit-motorists/>

Government announces additional funding to help UK SMEs export

Government has awarded an additional £13 million of funding to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) to help 10,000 more British companies export goods and sell to overseas markets. The majority of the investment – up to £9 million – will go directly towards boosting trade opportunities for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs). This additional funding for SMEs means that there will be more money available for SMEs to attend trade shows abroad through expanding the Tradeshow Access Programme. Funding will also ensure that substantial discounts will be offered on the Overseas Market Introduction Service, which provides targeted market research to help businesses find those crucial first contacts overseas and to help them develop relationships in new, fast-growing markets. This announcement comes as UKTI prepares to host 'Export Week' from 12-16 November, when there will be over one hundred events up and down the UK designed to reach out to SMEs. There will also be five 'Explore Export' events where UKTI experts from 70 overseas markets will be on hand to provide bespoke advice about trading both with our traditional partners and with high-growth markets. (Source: UKTI)

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/media/item/380760.html>

Week ahead

The Conservative Party Conference commences on Sunday 7 October.

House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess

House of Lords

No relevant activity