

Scotland: Clean air strategy launched

Scotland's Minister for the Environment and Climate Change Aileen McLeod this week announced the publication of 'Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future', a new national strategy aiming to achieve cleaner air quality for Scotland. The purpose of Cleaner Air for Scotland is to set out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to deliver further reductions in air pollution and fulfil their legal responsibilities in relation to air quality as soon as possible. It also considers the contribution that better air quality can make to sustainable economic growth, whilst improving health and environment, and reducing health inequalities for the citizens of Scotland. The strategy has been produced in partnership with many organisations across both the public and private sectors. (Source: [Scottish Government](#))

New car market stabilises in October after record 43 months of growth

Figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show UK new car registrations dropped for the first time in more than three and a half years as market growth levelled off in October. 177,664 new cars were registered in the month, representing a slight decrease of 1.1% on last year's figure and following a record 43 consecutive months of growth. Year-to-date figures strongly demonstrate that the new car market is still very buoyant – 2,274,550 cars have been registered so far this year, 6.4% more than at this time in 2014, and the best year-to-date performance on record. Diesel and petrol market shares remained stable, while the demand for alternatively fuelled vehicles (AFVs) continues to show positive growth. October AFV volumes were up by 13.8%, reaching 3% of the total market for the first time, as more consumers switch to an ever more diverse range of ultra low emission vehicles. The high-value market segments saw the

biggest gains, with specialist sports and luxury saloon vehicle registrations growing 59.0% and 23.1% respectively. (Source: [SMMT](#))

CV market strong as van demand rises for ninth month in 2015

The UK commercial vehicle market remained steady in October, with a small 2.9% decline in registrations. This reflects a return to business as usual following exceptional demand in the same month last year that was driven by impending regulatory changes. Figures for the year-to-date show overall growth of 16.7% compared with 2014, with a total of 355,301 vehicles registered. The British van market continued to thrive, as demand rose 6.2% compared with October 2014. 312,369 new vans have been registered so far in 2015 – 16.3% more than this time last year, and fuelled by increasing business confidence and the ever-growing popularity of online shopping. Truck registrations remained strong, up by nearly a fifth in the year-to-date, with 42,932 new vehicles registered in the first 10 months. A spike in heavy duty demand last October, following the introduction of the Euro-VI emissions standard at the beginning of 2014, caused this month's figures to appear considerably lower in comparison, falling 31.5%.

Bus and coach market set for best year since 2012

Figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders this week show the bus and coach market set for the best year since 2012, with October marking six months of consecutive growth. The year-to-date bus and coach demand rose by 23.5% to 7,715, beating 2014's full year performance. Converted buses continue to drive the market as 70% boost sees sector reach 454 units. (Source: [SMMT](#))

Labour Party announces Departmental Committee Chairs

Following the results of the elections for chairs of the Parliamentary Labour Party Departmental Committee Chairs, the results have been made available this week. Chairs include:

- Education: Ian Austin MO
- Treasury: Chris Leslie MP
- Business, Innovation and Skills: Peter Kyle MP
- Energy and Climate Change: Caroline Flint MP
- Communities and Local Government: Tristram Hunt MP
- Culture, Media and Sport: Graham Jones MP
- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Barry Sheerman MP
- Transport: Gavin Shaker MP

The Labour Party has also launched a consultation on its manifesto for the upcoming London mayoral elections in 2016. The consultation closes at 6pm on 27 November 2015. Further information can be found [here](#). (Source: [LabourList](#))

Nadhim Zahawi MP: New Role as Prime Minister's Apprenticeship Adviser

It was announced this week that Nadhim Zahawi MP will be the new Apprenticeship Adviser for David Cameron, and co-chair of the Apprenticeship Delivery Board. In this new role, he will be working closely with Number 10, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Skills Funding Agency to ensure that the Government's pledge for 3 million apprenticeships starts in this Parliament is met. (Source: [Nadhim Zahawi MP](#))



EEF – Manufacturers' verdict on UK innovation support

A new report from [EEF](#), the manufacturers' organisation, in association with Vodafone UK looks at how close manufacturers think the UK is to meeting the UK government's ambition to make UK the best place in Europe to innovate. The 'Innovation Support Report Card', based on a study of the opinions of UK manufacturers, shows room for improvement in most aspects of innovation support, with the UK frequently judged to be trailing behind competitors. It says that the UK risks missing out on opportunities unless there is a step up in support for bringing innovations to market. EEF's key recommendations ahead of the Government's Spending Review:

1. There should be a real term increase in funding for science and innovation by the end of this parliament and certainty about the trajectory of spending
2. Government should increase funding for Innovate UK, maintaining the breadth of support schemes
3. Government should commit to the principle of funding Catapult centres on a 'one third, one third, one third' basis
4. Government should increase the value of the large companies' R&D tax credit to ensure its competitiveness is not eroded by reductions in corporation tax

An industrial approach should involve Government maintaining a dialogue with industry and making sustained strategic investments where necessary. (Source: [EEF](#))

Week ahead

Commons Committees

Tuesday 10 November

- Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (9:30am, room 6): The Digital Economy

Lords Chamber

Tuesday 10 November

- Finance Bill: Second Reading

Lords Committees

Wednesday 11 November

- Constitution Committee: The Union and devolution

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are in recess until Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 November respectively.