

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 7 December

Chancellor delivers 2012 Autumn Statement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, delivered his 2012 Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday 5 December. In his statement the Chancellor confirmed that there would be a Spending Review in the first half of 2013. Key announcements from the statement include:

- A further 1% cut in the main rate of corporation tax from April 2014
- Temporary increase in the Annual Investment Allowance from £25,000 to £250,000 for two years
- One year extension of the temporary doubling of the Small Business Rate Relief scheme from 1 April 2013
- £1 billion of additional capital for the new Business Bank
- Government to consider the case for providing time limited incentives through company car tax to encourage the purchase and development of ultra low emission vehicles
- Cancellation of 3.02ppl fuel duty increase planned for 1 January 2013
- A further £350 million towards the Regional Growth Fund
- Funding for the Employer Ownership Pilot increased by £90 million
- £120 million for two additional rounds of the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative
- £600 million for Research Council Infrastructure and facilities for applied R&D.
- Establish a £1.5 billion scheme to provide loans for the purchase of UK exports
- £5.5 billion capital package and support for long term private investment in roads, science and free schools and free academies
- Removal of the performance league table from the Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to lead the development of new strategic plans for local growth. Government will devolve a greater proportion of growth-related spending on the basis of these strategic plans developed by LEPs by creating a single funding pot for local areas from April 2015 (Source: HM Treasury)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/as2012_index.htm

November new car registrations up 11.3%

Figures released by SMMT show that in November 2012 new car registration rose 11.3% to 149,191 units, on the back of increased private demand. In addition the UK new car market has grown 5.4% 10 1,921,052 units over the year-to-date, on track to be the strongest year for registrations since 2008. These figures place the UK as the second largest new car market in Europe, following a drop in demand in other key markets. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/12/november-new-car-registrations-confirm-uk-market-as-second-largest-in-eu/>



Commercial vehicle and bus and coach market down in November

Figures released by SMMT show that commercial vehicle registrations fell 15.9% in November to 22,860 units, down 5% on the year-to-date to 265,959. In addition, the overall bus and coach market fell 28.7% in November to 450 units. However the sector is still up 36.6% on the year-to-date. Market demand is also expected to be boosted as the fourth round of the Green Bus Fund comes into effect from May 2013. (Source: SMMT)

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

Mayor of London announces draft Business Plan

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has set out a range of transport initiatives in TfL's draft Business Plan that aim to boost jobs and economic growth. The plan will be considered by the TfL Board on Wednesday 12 December. Key for industry are plans to allocate a £90 million fund for TfL to create a more environmentally friendly and energy efficient network, with a proportion of the money allocated to help fund 600 more hybrid buses. The plan also contains a new £20 million fund for air quality, that will provide match-funding for innovative schemes and projects to boroughs that make a commitment to tackle air pollution. (Source: TfL)

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/26396.aspx>



New report identifies opportunities for lowering HGV costs and emissions

A new report commissioned by the Transport Knowledge Transfer Network (TKTN) and the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP), identifies options to overcome the main barriers to the adoption of carbon reduction technologies in the road freight sector which is responsible for around 7% of the UK's total CO₂ emissions. The report highlights that both compressed (CNG) and liquid (LNG) could provide significant growth and export opportunities for the UK as well as reducing well-to-wheel (WTW) emissions by up to 65% if the gas (methane) used is derived from a renewable source (biomethane). In addition, the report states that hybrid and pure electric vehicles are particularly suited to urban delivery and municipal duties (which account for about 14% of all HGV CO₂ emissions) and could deliver 20-50% emissions savings on a WTW basis with significant added benefits in terms of urban air quality and noise

reduction. Finally, with more than half of the energy transmitted to the wheels of a typical long haul HGV estimated to be lost in rolling resistance and over a third as aerodynamic drag, the report says that more could be done to encourage the adoption of technologies such as low rolling resistance and single wide tyres or aerodynamic aids, which together may offer up to 10% WTW CO₂ savings while having the potential to also cut vehicle operators' costs. The report has fed in to the work of the Task Force on Fuel Efficient, Low Emission HGV technologies which is a joint industry/government initiative aimed at promoting the use of fuel efficient, low emission road freight technologies. (Source: LowCVP)

<http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/news/1924/new-report-identifies-clear-opportunities-for-cutting-carbon-and-lowering-costs-from-road-freight-operations/>

Week ahead

Commons Committees

Tuesday 11 December

Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (9:30am , room 8) – Lord Heseltine's Report

Liaison Committee (4:00pm, Grimond room)
Oral Evidence from the Prime Minister – Green government

Treasury Committee (9:30am, Wilson room)
Autumn Statement

Wednesday 12 December

Treasury Committee (2:15pm, Grimond room)
Autumn Statement

Thursday 13 December

Treasury Committee (10:00am Thatcher room)
Autumn Statement