

## London ULEZ to begin in 2020

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has confirmed that the world's first ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) will launch in central London on 7 September 2020.

The ULEZ will require:

- Cars and small vans – Euro 6 for diesel engines (registered from 1 September 2015 so 5 years old or less in 2020) and Euro 4 for petrol engines (registered from 1 January 2006 so 14 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles will be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50;
- Large vans and minibuses – Euro 6 for diesel engines (registered from 1 September 2016 so 4 years old or less in 2020) and Euro 4 for petrol engines (registered from 1 January 2007 so 13 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles will be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50;
- Heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches – Euro VI (registered from 1 January 2014 so 6 years old or less in 2020 except TfL buses which are required to meet a higher standard). Non-compliant vehicles will be required to pay a daily charge of £100;
- Motorcycles and similar vehicles – Euro 3 (registered from 1 July 2007 so 13 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles will be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50.

Residents living in the ULEZ and vehicles adapted for disabled people will have a three year 'sunset period', meaning that they do not need to comply with the emissions standards until September 2023. Vehicles in the 40 year rolling vehicle tax exemption for classic vehicles will also be exempt from the ULEZ standards.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2015/03/mayor-confirms-world-s-first-ultra-low-emission-zone-and>

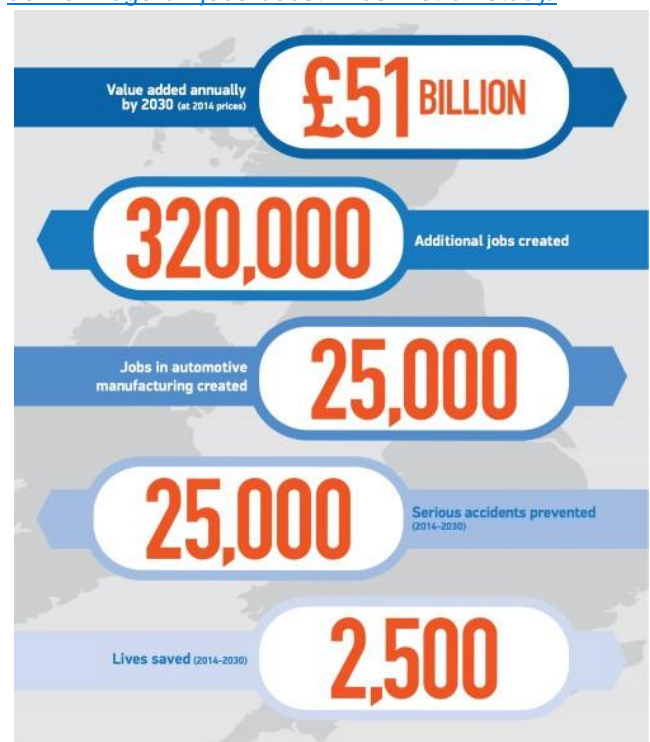
## SMMTConnected event held

SMMT hosted the inaugural SMMTConnected event at the QEII Centre in London on Thursday 26 March. This was the first industry-wide event in Britain to explore the opportunities and challenges ahead for connected and autonomous vehicles and demonstrate how the UK automotive sector is already developing cars of the future. Transport Minister Robert Goodwill

MP and Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Digital Economy provided keynote [speeches](#) at the event, whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, contributed to an SMMT produced [video](#) on the opportunity available to the UK. To coincide with the event, SMMT launched a [report](#) commissioned from KPMG, providing the first ever comprehensive analysis of the UK opportunities provided by this new technology. The report found that these new vehicles will deliver a £51 billion annual boost to the UK economy by 2030, provide 320,000 additional jobs and reduce serious road traffic accidents by more than 25,000. Crucially, it also forecasts the UK will be a global leader in the production of this next generation of vehicles. The UK has a unique opportunity to lead the way in developing the connected and driverless cars of tomorrow: it has a two-year head-start on other European countries, not having ratified the Vienna convention some decades ago. This means on-road driverless car pilots can take place without the need for primary legislation. At the event, SMMT Chief Executive, Mike Hawes, also announced the creation of the Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Forum.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/03/connected-cars-to-deliver-huge-uk-jobs-boost-finds-first-uk-study/>



## OLEV announces plug-in van grant extension and fund for greener taxis

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) has announced a new £45 million fund to support the rollout of greener taxis. £20 million will be made available to local authorities to support the rollout of ultra-low emission taxis across the UK with the money available to reduce the upfront cost of purpose built taxis and to install charging infrastructure for taxi and private hire use. A further £25 million has been set aside specifically for the Greater London Area to help taxi drivers cover the cost of upgrading to a greener vehicle. The full guidance is available at [Ultra low emission taxi scheme](#). OLEV has also announced the extension of the ultra-low emission plug-in van grant, which was launched in 2012 and provides purchasers with a 20% discount off the upfront cost worth up to £8,000 and an additional £4 million to support the early deployment of publically accessible gas refuelling points for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the UK. The investment aims to give businesses that use gas-powered trucks the flexibility to refuel en route, rather than having to specifically plan journeys between refuelling stations. OLEV will work with Innovate UK and the freight sector to identify areas where demand for infrastructure is highest. (Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/black-taxis-go-green-with-45-million-government-investment>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-green-fleets-to-cut-emissions>

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## Plans for idling charge to be implemented

Westminster Council have announced plans to implement a £20 idling charge from 1 May 2015 for drivers who refuse to switch off engines while stationary within the council's area. The scheme reflects concerns from residents and businesses about the borough's air quality, and described the penalties as a "last resort. The policy follows on from Islington Council's fines for vehicles that idle which was introduced in August and Camden council's for buses that idle for too long, introduced in 2011. (Source: Westminster Council Online)

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/air-pollution>

## Acts given Royal Assent

This week, several acts were given Royal Assent. Amongst those, the following acts, relevant to the UK Automotive Sector were:

- Consumer Rights Act: part of the reform of UK consumer law. It will introduce a range of new rights for consumers when it comes into force on 1 October 2015 including a 30-day time period to return faulty goods
- Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act: it aims to open up new opportunities for small businesses to access finance, make provision about regulatory provisions relating to business and to compete. The act also includes a requirement for companies to report on their payment practices and policies.
- Modern Slavery Act: consolidates the current offences relating to trafficking and slavery. A key area for the sector is the new requirement for companies to report on what they are doing to eliminate slavery from their business and supply chains.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=department-for-business-innovation-skills>

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## New Lobbyist Register

On Wednesday 25 March, government's new registry of lobbyists went live. This new register will ensure that a substantive number of lobby firms are recorded and monitored. The new register will only cover consultant lobbyists and will not apply to lobbyists working 'in-house' for companies or organisations. A person or company will only need to be registered if they are contacting a government minister or permanent secretary in a government department.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32047992>

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## Week ahead

**Parliament dissolved: Monday 30 March 2015**

**The new Parliament will meet on 18 May.**

**Queens Speech: 27 May**