

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 4 October

### September new car registrations rise 12.1%

Figures published by SMMT show that new car registrations rose 12.1% in September to 403,136 units, the best performing month since March 2008. Robust private demand played a significant role in this growth with customers attracted by increasingly fuel-efficient new models which offer savings in the cost of ownership. September was the 19th consecutive month of steady growth and, with fleet and business demand still to reach pre-recession levels, industry believes the performance to be sustainable. Commercial vehicle registrations also had a positive month, up 12.4% to 49,197 units with the overall market up 8.1% on the year-to-date at 239,356 units. (Source:SMMT)

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



### New funding for Traineeships scheme announced

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock MP has announced that an additional £20 million of funding will be made available to government's new Traineeships programme. Traineeships, which began in August, aim to provide 16 to 23-year-olds with the skills, experience and confidence to compete in the labour market – helping them secure Apprenticeships or other jobs. More than 500 providers have pledged to take on trainees this year and so far 150 companies, both large and small, have all expressed an interest in

offering placements to young people. Commenting on the announcement, Matthew Hancock stated: "Traineeships give young people the helping hand they need to compete for Apprenticeships and other jobs. The programme is off to an excellent start with strong backing from employers and training providers. We have responded to this demand by providing additional investment and in time traineeships will become the clear route for young people looking to get the crucial grounding they need in the world of work".

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-for-traineeship-scheme-announced>

### Roads Minister speaks at SMMT's Conservative party conference event

Stephen Hammond MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, was the keynote speaker at SMMT's annual lunch event at the Conservative Party Conference. Held on Monday 30 September the event was attended by parliamentarians from Westminster and Brussels including Robert Goodwill MP, Mary Macleod MP, Martin Callanan MEP and Anthea McIntyre MEP, and senior industry representatives. Mr Hammond's speech majored on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for developing low-carbon technologies within the automotive sector. Mr Hammond also discussed his responsibility to oversee better regulation in the industry, as well as his concern with the EU's roadworthiness proposals. SMMT Chief Executive, Mike Hawes, discussed the sector's positions on current industry topics such as the DfT's recently announced £500 million strategy for ultra-low emissions vehicles, and the ongoing changes to DVLA services. He also stressed the need for solidarity between industry and government in realising the automotive sector strategy.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2013/10/transport-minister-targets-low-carbon-challenges-at-conservative-conference/>

## Green buses to get additional government funding

Transport Minister Norman Baker MP has announced additional money will be made available to bring 55 more low carbon buses into service and to retro-fit dozens more. Speaking at industry event Coach and Bus Live on 2 October, Mr Baker announced that £2.4 million will be ploughed into further funding for low carbon buses allowing bus companies and local authorities in Manchester, Oxfordshire, York and Sunderland to buy electric, hybrid and biomethane gas-powered buses., stating: "This money will improve air quality in towns and cities across England and cut carbon, which is good for all of us wherever we live. Schemes like these are a cost-effective way of landing real benefits for the public and the environment. Cleaner, more efficient bus services are good for the economy and for the environment – it's a win-win". (Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-buses-to-get-more-funding>



## Science and engineering teaching receives £400 million boost

Universities and Science Minister David Willetts MP has announced that science and engineering teaching at English universities will receive a £400 million boost. The announced package consists of a £200 million fund from government that will be match-funded by universities on at least a one-to-one basis. This aims to boost the UK's national university infrastructure and allow science and engineering departments to provide world-class facilities and teaching for students. The competition for these funds will also act to support the aim of getting more women to take science and engineering at degree level by

requiring evidence of a commitment to equality and diversity. The package will also implement a partial relaxation of the current rules that prevent part-time students who have previously studied for a degree getting access to support for fees. The reversal means that anyone wishing to retrain part-time in engineering, technology and computer science will now be able to get some tuition support (Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-million-will-help-science-and-engineering-students-get-ahead-in-the-global-race-and-encourage-more-women-to-study-these-subjects>

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## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

8-9 October

Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill: Remaining stages

### Commons Committees

Tuesday 8 October

Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (9:30am, room 15) – Government's draft consumer rights bill

Wednesday 9 October

Energy and Climate Change Committee (10:15am Grimond room) – The work of the Committee on Climate Change

Wednesday 9 October

Science and Technology Committee (9:15am, Thatcher room) – Climate: Public understanding and policy implications

Thursday 10 October

European Scrutiny Committee (10:00am, Thatcher room) – The 2014 decision

Thursday 10 October

Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (10:00am, Wilson room) – The coalition government's programme of political and constitutional reform

### Westminster Hall

No relevant activity

### Lords Committees

Thursday 10 October

External Affairs (EU Sub-Committee C) (10:00am, room 1) – Transatlantic trade and investment partnership