

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 30 October

Mayor and TfL finalise ULEZ requirements for taxi and minicab trades

The Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) have confirmed to the taxi and private hire trades how they will play their part in improving London's air quality when the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is introduced in the Capital in 2020. From 1 January 2018, all taxis licensed for the first time must be zero emission capable, while new diesel taxis will not be allowed in London. For private hire vehicles, there are several milestones which will ensure that all vehicles granted a private hire licence for the first time after 1 January 2023 will be zero emission capable, regardless of age:

- In advance of the ULEZ requirements, and to clean up the private hire fleet, all private hire vehicles licensed for the first time between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019 must feature a Euro 6 petrol or diesel engine, or a Euro 4 petrol-hybrid engine.
- From 1 January 2020 all new private hire vehicles - defined as those under 18 months old - licensed for the first time will have to be zero emission capable.
- Older private hire vehicles - those over 18 months old - will need to feature a Euro 6 engine when licensed for the first time between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2022. They will also need to be zero emission capable from 2023.

This follows a second consultation with the taxi and private hire trades, stakeholders and the public on proposed licensing changes ahead of the ULEZ. The Mayor and TfL have secured £65m of funding to help taxi drivers achieve a target of 9,000 zero emission capable taxis by 2020. Up to £5,000 will be available to taxi drivers who want to decommission their vehicle once it reaches 10 years of age, with the exact amount depending on the age of the vehicle. As well as this, a £5,000 plug-in car grant is available through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), to which a £3,000 'top-up' grant can be added. The same OLEV plug-in grant is also available for private hire drivers. (Source: [TfL](#))

Manufacturing growth falls as demand at home and abroad weakens

Manufacturing production edged downwards during the three months to October, marking the first decline in the last two years, according to the CBI Quarterly Industrial Trends Survey. Despite this, firms have signalled that they expect overall conditions to stabilise over the next quarter. New export orders fell at the fastest pace in three years, possibly down to the continued strength of Sterling. Total new domestic orders reduced over the quarter for the first time since April 2013 and manufacturers' optimism about both their business situation and export prospects for the year ahead fell to the greatest extent since October 2012. Total unit costs stabilised over the three months to October, but output prices fell further and are expected to do so again over the next three months. Firms highlighted concerns about political and economic conditions abroad and their impact on export orders. Worries about price competition rose and the number of manufacturers citing uncertainty about demand as a constraint on investment was the highest in two years. (Source: [CBI](#))

PM Cameron admits Norway no model for Britain in Europe

British Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday (28 October) launched his most open defence to date of Britain remaining in the European Union, telling Eurosceptics that EU-outsider Norway was no model to emulate. Speaking in parliament ahead of a trip to Iceland where he is expected to make the same point, David Cameron said he would "guide very strongly against" seeing Britain's European future being akin to that of Norway. David Cameron had until Wednesday avoided addressing the arguments for and against EU membership, an issue that will be put to a referendum by the end of 2017. But with opinion polls showing a narrowing of support for the bloc versus leaving, he stepped up the pressure to take on the Eurosceptics directly. (Source: [Euractiv](#))

Modern Slavery - Transparency in Supply Chains provision published

The transparency in supply chains provisions came into force on 29 October 2015. The [statutory guidance](#) has been published. The objective of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is to prevent modern slavery entering the supply chain and organisations as well as preventing more people becoming victims. The statutory guidance provides information and case studies about how organisations can comply with the transparency in supply chain provisions. The provisions are designed to increase transparency by requiring organisations to set out the steps they are taking to tackle modern slavery. It is anticipated that the first statements could show what businesses are doing to begin to act on the issue of modern slavery in their supply chain as well as identifying what investigation or collaboration needs to happen with others to cause change. (Source: SMMT, [Shoosmiths](#))

Exports and role of UKTI inquiry

This week, the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee launched an inquiry looking at Exports and the role of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). The deadline for responses is Friday 11 December. The scope of the inquiry focuses on:

- What policies are required to help meet the Government's headline targets of £1 trillion exports and 100,000 more companies exporting by 2020?
- In particular, what further support should be provided to help SMEs meet their export potential?
- Is UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) fit for purpose? Are the indicators used to measure its performance the right ones? How could UKTI be better held to account?
- What UKTI activities are most effective at increasing exports? What more could it do?
- What more can other bodies, such as the banks and UK Export Finance, do to provide financial assistance to companies seeking to export?

(Source: [Parliament](#))

Week ahead

Commons chamber

Tuesday 3 November

- European Union Bill: Second Reading

Commons Committees

Tuesday 3 November

- Treasury Committee: The economic and financial costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU (10:00am, Thatcher room)
- Foreign Affairs Committee (3:00pm, Grimond room) – Costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU
- Business, Innovation and Skills Committee (4.15pm, room 8) – Government's Productivity Plan

Wednesday 4 November

- European Scrutiny Committee (9:45am and 2:45pm, room 6 and room 8) – UK Government's renegotiation of EU membership: parliamentary sovereignty and scrutiny

Lords Chamber

Monday 2 November

- European Union Referendum Bill: Committee

Tuesday 3 November

- Debate on the report of the EU Committee on the referendum on UK membership of the EU: Assessing the reform process

Wednesday 4 November

- European Union Referendum Bill: Committee

Lords Committees

Monday 2 November

- EU Internal Market Sub-Committee (4.40pm, room 2) – Online Platforms and the EU Digital Single Market

Grand Committee

Monday 2 November

- Enterprise Bill: Committee (3:30pm)

Wednesday 4 November

- Enterprise Bill: Committee (3:45pm)