

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 11 December

Bus and coach registrations maintain growth in November

Figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show bus and coach registrations rose by 8.4% in November to 681 units – the highest total since 2007. 8,396 buses and coaches were registered in 2015 so far, more than a fifth up on last year's total. The fall in converted bus registrations was outweighed by strong increases across other key segments. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "Although November saw more moderate growth than in previous months, the UK bus and coach market remains on track for a strong year. One of the year's big performers, converted buses weighing 3.5t to 8.5t, fell by a third in the month – but with double-digit growth across all other key market segments, the situation remains positive."

(Source: [SMMT](#))

CV market makes gains in November after October blip

The commercial vehicle market returned to strong growth in November following a dip in the previous month, according to figures released today by The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). 33,303 CVs were registered in the month, an increase of 13.9%. Van registrations posted a 9.6% rise in the month, continuing the general trend seen over the past few years with businesses having grown in confidence and online deliveries surging in popularity. Truck registrations saw a huge 55.8% jump, although this was to be expected given the large fall in November 2014 which followed changes to Type Approval legislation. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "The commercial vehicle market continues to demonstrate phenomenal progress, with sustained growth over a number of years as ever-more confident businesses invest in their fleets. "The sharp upturn in truck registrations comes as no surprise, given the heavy fall seen in the same month last year – but the long-term trend of robust growth is encouraging." (Source: [SMMT](#))

Sub-committee on Education, Skills and the Economy

Government has announced the [membership](#) of a new Parliamentary Committee, the sub-committee on Education, Skills and the Economy. Comprising Members from the Education Committee and the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, the new Sub-Committee aims to bring together committee members in an innovative way to examine issues around education and skills, and how they impact upon business and the economy. Government also published its plan for how they will increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships, achieving 3 million apprenticeships by 2020.

(Source: [BIS](#))



Ministerial appointment: Robert Goodwill

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Robert Goodwill MP as a Minister of State at the Department for Transport. Robert Goodwill was previously a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport.

(Source: [DfT](#))

Transport Select Committee – evidence session for vehicle type approval

The Transport Select Committee will hold its first evidence session for vehicle type approval on Monday 14 December. The objective of the session is to question experts and academics on their research and its possible application for enhancing vehicle type approval reform. Witnesses include:

- Nick Molden, Chief Executive Officer, Emissions Analytics
- James Tate, Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University
- Greg Archer, Clean Vehicles Manager, Transport & Environment

The Committee session will take place at 4:10pm, Grimond Room, Portcullis House.

(Source: [Parliament](#))

Prime Minister's speech on delivering commitments

David Cameron delivered a keynote speech on the government's progress in delivering on its manifesto commitments. Delivered 7 months after the election, the speech set out government's progress, including on the commitment to reach 3 million apprenticeships in this parliament. Government is also pressing ahead with more recent commitments too, including the National Living Wage.

(Source: [Prime Minister's Office](#))

BCC – Economic Forecast

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) has downgraded its UK GDP growth forecast for 2014 from 3.2% to 3.0%, but this figure still represents the fastest growth experienced by the British economy since 2007. The BCC has also revised down its growth forecasts for the following two years from 2.8% to 2.6% in 2015 and from 2.5% to 2.4% in 2016. This is largely due to slower than expected growth in household consumption, exports and services, leading to weaker than expected GDP growth in Q3 2014. Total industrial output is predicted to record growth of 2.3% in 2014, 1.5% in 2015 and 1.6% in 2016. Manufacturing output is also predicted to grow by 1.8% in 2015 and 1.8% in 2016.

(Source: [BCC](#))

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Monday 14 December

- European Referendum Bill: Committee and remaining stages

Commons Committees

Monday 14 December

- Transport Committee (4:10pm, Grimond Room, Portcullis House)– Vehicle Type Approval

Tuesday 15 December

- Foreign Affairs Committee (10:00am, room tbc) – Costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU

Wednesday 16 December

- Environmental Audit Committee (2:15pm, room tbc) – Assessment of EU/UK Environmental Policy

Lords Chamber

Monday 14 December

- European Union Referendum Bill: Consideration of Commons Reasons

Lords Committees

Monday 14 December

- European Union Committee (2:30pm, room 1)
- EU Internal Market Sub-Committee (4:15pm, room 2) – Online Platforms and the EU Digital Single Market

Tuesday 15 December

- Enterprise Bill: Third Reading

Wednesday 16 December

- Constitution Committee (10:15am, room 1) – The Union and devolution

Westminster Hall

Tuesday 15 December

- 9:30 – 11:00am: Transport for London funding

The House of Commons will be in recess from Friday 18 December until Tuesday 5 January 2016.