



POLICY DRIVE

Week commencing 4th June 2018

IMI at Automechanika

The IMI was in attendance for this year's Automechanika Birmingham, the leading exhibition for the automotive aftermarket and vehicle production sector in the UK.

Located in the *Garage Quarter* section of Birmingham's NEC Arena, the IMI hosted workshops and aftermarket seminars demonstrating the safe maintenance and repair of electric vehicles.

At the event, IMI Chief Executive Steve Nash gave an engaging presentation on the increasing electrification of vehicles and implications for the aftermarket.

Topics covered included the government's ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2040, new challenges posed by autonomous and connected vehicles, and how to ensure the automotive sector is protected through the continual development of competent and skilled individuals.

A discussion concerning the IMI's proposed regulation of individuals working on high voltage electric vehicles followed the presentation, as Steve Nash was joined by Andy Savva, known by the moniker 'The Garage Inspector', Andy Turbfield, Head of Quality and Training at Halfords Autocentres, and Professor Jim Saker of Loughborough University to discuss the importance of EV regulation.

An interesting and engaging conversation on the topic of EV regulation took place with panel members offering their own unique perspectives on the benefits of having regulation introduced.

Top News and Opinion:

Awarding bodies must be given a say on T-Levels (TES)

Julie Hyde, director of awarding body CACHE (Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education), has written in the Times Educational Supplement urging the government to give awarding bodies a stronger voice in the development of T-Level qualifications.

Hyde warns against the 'silo' approach taken by the government and claims that awarding bodies, with their specialist knowledge, need a more integrated role in T-Level qualification design and development.

Moreover, Hyde argues that current factors influencing the T-Level design process, such as employers dominating T-Level and route panels, the single licence approach for procurement and a tight timeline for deliverability risk, undermine the quality of final T-Level qualifications.

Read More: [Here](#)

UK Government launches autonomous vehicles funding competition (GOV.UK)

To help realise the government's ambition to see autonomous cars on UK streets by 2021, the government is inviting companies to bid for a share of £30 million worth of funding to support the development of self-driving vehicles.

Funded through the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) and Meridian, the



government's unique hub for testing autonomous technology, the competitions see government and industry jointly investing in UK businesses to help realise the government's ambition to see fully self-driving vehicles on UK roads by 2021.

£5m will be awarded to projects developing and testing autonomous parking technology. Money will also be directed to fund two public-testing sites for self-driving cars in urban settings.

Business Minister Richard Harrington supported the launch by saying "self-driving vehicles have the potential to revolutionise the way we move people and goods across the UK...today's funding will bring self-driving vehicles one step closer to becoming a normal feature on UK roads and could, in time, make learning to parallel park a thing of the past".

Read More about the launch: [Here](#)

Hybrid cars failing to meet official 'fuel economy' claims (This is Money.co.uk)

According to a study by automotive consumer site 'HonestJohn.co.uk', almost every hybrid car on sale is failing to meet its official fuel economy targets.

Conducting 148,000 real-world fuel tests of vehicles, the study found that on average the typical hybrid car returns just 70 per cent of its advertised mpg (miles per gallon).

The worst ranked hybrid – Mercedes C350e – achieved just 37% per cent of its official mpg. And the most popular plug-in hybrid – the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV – was among those furthest from its fuel economy claims.

Alarming, the motoring site instead revealed that only one in 39 hybrid models delivers the mpg advertised with the car.

Read More: [Here](#)

UK Car Market up by 3.4% in May (Just Auto)

The UK new car market grew by 3.4% in May with 192,649 new units registered, according to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

The growth is a positive announcement against May 2017's 8.5% decline in the market.

Notably, the month also marked increased demand for alternatively fuelled vehicles which grew by 36.1% to 11,240 units, accounting for 5.8% of the market.

Read More: [Here](#)

Each car in London costs NHS and society £8,000 due to air pollution, report finds

Air pollution from cars and vans racks up health bills of nearly £6bn every year in the UK, according to a new report by researchers at the universities of Oxford and Bath.

Scientists concluded that the health cost of an average car in inner London over the vehicle's lifetime was nearly £8,000, with diesels nearly costing twice as much.

Across the country, the report found that health costs from air pollution that could be attributed to a typical UK car running on fossil fuels over its 14-year lifetime amount to £1,640, while a van costs £5,107 over nine years on the road.

"Our research for the first time illustrates the individual cost that each car and van has on the NHS and wider society", said Dr Alistair Hunt from the University of Bath, one of the report's authors.

Read More: [Here](#)



Brexit latest:

EU Withdrawal Bill: Crunch votes in the commons to take place on 12th June, with MPs set to vote on Lord's amendments relating to the EU's customs union, Irish border and date of withdrawal

Read More: [Here](#)

Dutch government tells car manufacturers to avoid UK parts after Brexit

Read More: [Here](#)

Government warned British cars will not qualify for future trade deals after Brexit

Read More: [Here](#)

Other news:

UK to see 'surge in demand' for online car finance

Read more: [Here](#)

UK Drivers considering EV doubles in last year, claims Merchant Banking group

Read More: [Here](#)

Employers use just 10% of their apprenticeship levy funds in first year

Read More: [Here](#)

Universities enticed by apprenticeship levy cash

Read More: [Here](#)

Sir Richard Branson: Ditch diesel for electric cars before 2040

Read More: [Here](#)

Check out all previous editions of the IMI's *Policy Drive* and find regular weekly updates on our [ROI and Research page](#)