



## POLICY DRIVE

9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### IMI included in Department for Transport's 'Road to Zero' report

The IMI's campaign to achieve new regulations to protect technicians working on electrically-propelled vehicles received a major boost this week, as the Department for Transport (DFT) confirmed in its newly-released 'Road to Zero' strategy that the IMI's recommendations are now under government consideration.

The report, entitled '*reducing emissions from road transport: Road to Zero Strategy*' released on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July, sets out new measures to clean up road transport and lead the world in the developing, manufacturing and usage of zero emission road vehicles.

The strategy includes a comprehensive 46-point plan setting out how the government will support the transition to zero emission road transport and reduce emissions from conventional vehicles.

In welcome news, the DFT has included the IMI as a collaborative body in the strategy in helping to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles.

Under point 23 of the strategy, the DFT makes a commitment to "*working with the Institute of the Motor Industry to ensure the UK's workforce of mechanics are well trained and have the skills they need to repair these vehicles safely, delivering for consumers*".

The IMI is also referenced in a separate part of the strategy on 'ensuring we have the right skills', where the report states that "*our automotive industry will require new technical skills to meet the specific challenges of new technologies*".

*"We are reviewing whether current regulations are sufficient to protect mechanics working on electric and hybrid vehicles. We are working with the Institute of the Motor Industry to ensure that the UK's workforce of mechanics are well trained and have the skills they need to repair these safely".*

The release of the strategy marks significant progress for the IMI's campaign, following previous discussions with DFT ministers concerning potential models for licencing and regulation held in April of this year with Jesse Norman MP and his predecessor John Hayes MP in December 2017.

Steve Nash, Chief Executive at the IMI, welcomed the release of 'Road to Zero' by stating "the strategy released this week by the DFT marks a very significant achievement for the lobbying campaign that the IMI has led on behalf of the motor industry to protect those working on the high voltage systems of electrified vehicles".

The IMI will now look to build upon the positive news of its inclusion in the landmark strategy with new meetings with both the DFT and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), to assist the government in understanding how maintenance and repair of electrically propelled vehicles can be carried out in a safe and professional manner *post-Road to Zero*.

Read the strategy: [Here](#)

IMI Press Release: [Here](#)



### Apprenticeship starts drop again as 3 million target slips away

According to the latest statistics released by the Department for Education, there were 24,100 starts in April 2018, representing a decline by two-thirds from the provisional figure for April 2017.

To date, there have been 290,500 apprenticeship starts reported between August 2017 and April 2018 for the 2017/18 academic year, which is a drop of 34% compared to 2016/17's equivalent starts which came in at 440,300.

[Fe Week analysis](#) suggests that this leaves the government's 2015 manifesto target of 3m starts by 2020 looking near-impossible, with the government needing to hit 1.58m apprenticeship starts in the next 24 months in order to meet its target. This would demand an average of 66,241 starts per month.

The unlikelihood of the target being met is emphasised by the fact that there are less than 400,000 school leavers every year. Achieving 3 million starts by 2020 would therefore at a minimum require employers to convert mature candidates into apprentices.

Calls for reform to the apprenticeship levy continue in the midst of another month of decline for apprenticeship starts. However, there has also been fresh calls from a range of industry bodies instead urging businesses to rally behind the apprenticeship levy as a solution to the ongoing concern surrounding starts.

These include [Progress to Excellence Ltd](#), a national apprenticeship training provider, and [NowSkills](#), a Manchester-based apprenticeship provider.

Notably, [The IMI](#) is calling for business to take advantage of training funds made available by the apprenticeship levy.

Read More: [Here](#)

### Federation of Awarding Bodies launches judicial review over T-Level implementation plans

The Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB), the trade association for professional and technical awarding organisations, has formally written to the Department for Education and Institute for Apprenticeships outlining FAB's intention to launch a legal challenge to the Government's flagship T-Level programme.

Paul Eeles, chair of FAB's Board said "It is highly regrettable that we feel the need to take these steps. It seems the government is not willing to listen to a chorus of concerns about its T-Level implementation plans".

FAB's [statement](#) on the legal challenge suggests that FAB are contesting the legality of T-Level implementation on three grounds: irrational timescales for T-Level delivery, the single-provider model and a disproportionate impact to the awarding sector. [The IMI has offered its support](#) to FAB's T-Level legal challenge.

Read More: [Here](#)

### Cross-Party group of MP's release report on 'fixing' the apprenticeship system

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Apprenticeships has released its [annual report](#) detailing several recommendations on how to improve the apprenticeship system.

The APPG provides MP's and employers a platform on which to promote the role of high quality apprenticeships.

The report puts forward eight recommendations to government to improve apprenticeships, such as ensuring that the apprenticeship system is flexible enough to meet the needs of business, young people have adequate access to careers advice and employers should provide a clear path for career progression for apprentices.

Read More: [Here](#)



## Half of young people want electric cars

Half of young people would like to own an electric car, according to research conducted by motoring group the AA.

10,293 drivers were polled in the AA/Populus Survey, which revealed different public perceptions of Electric Vehicles:

1. 85% of people overall in the survey said that there aren't enough public charging points for EV's.
2. 76% said EV's can't go far enough on a single charge.
3. 76% think EV's are too expensive.
4. 67% think EV's take too long to charge.
5. 67% think there isn't enough choice of models.

However, the AA's president Edmund King dispelled the myths putting off many drivers from electric vehicles by stating: "The range, charging speed and charging point infrastructure are all on the increase. There needs to be a more concerted effort by us all to sell the benefits of electric vehicles".

**Read More:** [Here](#)

## Autotech Recruit calls for greater training investment to close skills gap

Automotive recruitment specialist *Autotech Recruit* has called for greater investment in training to counter the growing skills gap in the automotive sector.

The agency highlights the growing demand for highly-skilled vehicle technicians and alludes to the IMI's on-going Licence to Practice campaign, as a mechanism to redress the skills shortage as the transition to electric accelerates.

*"If vehicle technicians are not adequately trained it will only be a question of time before somebody, without the right knowledge, puts a spanner in a high voltage area"*. **Read More:** [Here](#)

## Brexit latest

- Government releases Brexit white paper setting out future relationship of the UK with the EU (**Read More:** [Here](#))
- Brexit Chequers plan proposing 'common rulebook' for goods welcomed by Aston Martin (**Read More:** [Here](#))
- Industry welcomes Brexit white paper but calls for more clarity on trade (**Read More:** [Here](#))

## Other news

- Skills Minister Anne Milton MP: "I wouldn't encourage my children to study first round of T-Levels" (**Read More:** [Here](#))
- National Grid: UK can cope with surging EV power demand (**Read More:** [Here](#))
- Volkswagen to offer all-electric car sharing service (**Read More:** [Here](#))
- Electric car registrations grow 25% in first half of 2018 (**Read More:** [Here](#))

## Consultations

Ofqual has launched a [4-week consultation](#) on regulating T-Levels, closing 6<sup>th</sup> August. A response submission is being considered by the IMI.

*Find previous editions and future updates of the IMI's Policy Drive on our [ROI and Research page](#)*