

1RISH MOTOR MANAGEMENT

THE SOCIETY OF THE IRISH MOTOR INDUSTRY

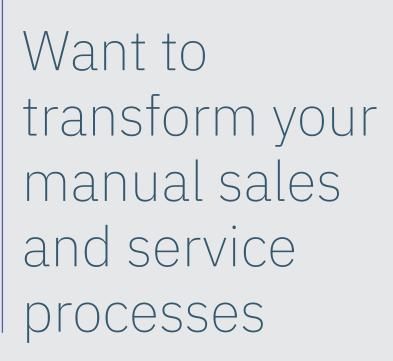
Budget 2022

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For a greener tomorrow





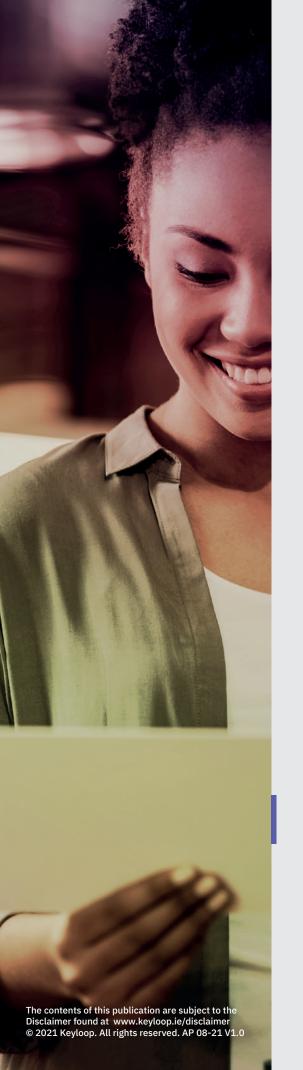


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BUDGET 2022

Budget 2022 is looming and it is vital for both our members and the country that the Government make the right decisions, from both business and environmental perspectives. Budget 2022 must include measures that support business and a



focus that empowers consumers into making the best possible individual transport decisions that support emission reductions and keeps Ireland on the road to de-carbonising transport over the next three decades. The approach in recent years of withdrawing supports for low and zero emitting vehicles prematurely and increasing VRT needs to end; we need to support the new car market, and focus on the worst polluting vehicles on Irish roads, with creative affordable solutions that allow commuters reduce their carbon footprint, either through greatly enhanced public transport infrastructure or by allowing them to trade up to a newer lower emitting car. The recently issued TSG Paper highlights the challenge we face; proposals include more of the same, and as an Industry we must act in unison to prevent this happening.

Our Industry faces a number of challenges: supply of new and used vehicles; the ongoing ageing of the national fleet; high levels of taxation on new cars; attracting and retaining technicians; and the crystallisation of warehoused tax liabilities over the next year. In this business climate, it is important that Government supports local motor businesses. For retail sectors like our Industry, the final unwinding of COVID-19 restrictions and the potential to tap into the release of some of the record savings levels, should mean that next year is one to look forward to in terms of increased activity and profitability. While the sector is performing well at present, our new car market continues to underperform, with registrations over the past decade well below what a normal new car market should be of 165,000 registrations per annum. Any Government Budgetary measures in relation to new cars must support a strong new car market that focuses on lower emitting vehicles, and also on getting older higher emitting vehicles off the road. We need the extension of current incentives for the purchase of alternative fuel cars and vans, and we need to introduce measures that encourage businesses to lead the charge on electric vehicles (EVs). The new car market can only work with strong trading conditions for used cars also, in order for buyers to retain car values which enables them to trade up to cleaner vehicles. In addition, State and commercial investment in a nationwide EV charging infrastructure is key to giving motorists more confidence in the essential strategic EV project.

Climate change and transport mobility can be an opportunity for our Industry but if the Government increases taxes and reduces incentives for motorists, then this opportunity could turn out to be a missed one. Our Budget lobby, with the support of our members, is engaging with Government, the various departments and stakeholders to advise them of what the Industry needs to achieve this transition.

We support the Government objective to de-carbonise our national fleet (2.2 million vehicles) which must be undertaken in an equitable and sustainable way, as past mistakes must not inhibit our drive towards a greener future.

Brian Cooke

Director General, SIMI

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The Society of the Irish Motor Industry, 5 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2. Tel: +353 1 676 1690 Fax: +353 1 661 9213 Email: info@similie Web: www.similie President: Gillian Fanning, Serfac Ltd. Deputy President: Antonia Hendron, M50 Truck and Van Centre. Honorary Treasurer: Jonathan Meade, Hutton & Meade. Director General: Brian Cooke. Communications Director: Teresa Noone.

Editor: Bernard Potter. Advertising: Bryan Beasley. Design: Ciarán Brougham. Production: Barry Sheehan, Martin Whelan.

Accounts: Tricia Murtagh. Administration & Subscriptions: Sue Nolan. Photography: Dave Cullen. Chief Executive: Rebecca Markey. Publisher: David Markey

Publishers: IFP Media Limited Irish Motor Management, Castlecourt, Monkstown Farm, Glenageary, Co Dublin. Tel: +353 1 709 6900 Email: bernard@ifpmedia.com

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Budget 2022: Important role in the step towards decarbonisation

Budget 2022 can play an important role in the step towards decarbonisation. Here, we outline SIMI's vision for the most rapid and effective transition to zero carbon transport and identify the Budget 2022 measures that are essential to achieving it.

Background

Our new car market has been in decline since 2016. COVID-19, Brexit and other issues have unfortunately compounded that problem. In last year's budget, VRT was changed to incorporate a new EU emissions standard. However, this translated into a significant increase in the price of vehicles for our new car customers (both private and business). When you combine this with COVID-19, it has left our market at 12% below 2019 which was already 30% behind the 2016 market figure. By our estimations, our market is about 40% behind where it should be. If we don't recover that market shortfall, we have little to no chance of achieving any material impact on the decarbonisation of our transport fleet.

With continuous taxation increases, we will have no hope of increasing the sale of new lower emitting vehicles and we simply cannot sell the number of electric vehicles required to meet the demands of the EU, the Irish Government or the

consumers who will want good quality electric and alternative fuel vehicles in the coming years. This will not happen and we must address this now. This longstanding approach to our sector needs to end; legislators must support the new car market. 2022 should be a year for the economy and the Motor Industry to recover. We need

Government support to achieve this. There is too much at stake for the 40,000 people employed in businesses, in towns and villages throughout Ireland. Other sectors are getting much needed supports; the Motor Industry and new

car buyers should not be discriminated against, particularly as they are trying to make positive environmental decisions. This year's Budget should focus on stability and fairness for both the motorist and the Industry as we transition to zero-carbon transport which must be affordable to the widest possible constituency. We need a strong new car market which will, in turn, supply our used car market with quality lower and zero emissions vehicles more quickly. A reduction in taxation will help move Ireland towards a cleaner, greener future. It will facilitate environmental change with cleaner car technologies and benefit the economy with increased revenue, while protecting businesses and employment and supporting consumers.

Targets

Our Industry is a key partner of the Irish Government in seeking to reduce carbon emissions from motor vehicles, selling more than 400,000 new and used vehicles each

year. We are committed to delivering as many electric vehicles to the local market as quickly as possible, but emissions reduction targets for 2030 will not feasibly be met only by selling electric cars. The target number is irrelevant as what's important is the decarbonisation of the fleet.

We are currently renewing

about 5% of the total national fleet each year, with electric or modified electric vehicles representing less than 1% of the overall fleet. We must find a balance between a transitional move to alternative fuel technologies, and

"With continuous taxation increases... we simply cannot sell the number of electric vehicles required to meet the demands of the EU, the Irish Government or consumers"





maintaining and increasing employment in our sector. Changing the technology of 2.2 million vehicles already in Ireland is a huge ambition. There are significant challenges to overcome moving to electric vehicles, and taxation measures along with incentives should encourage both customers and businesses to purchase the cleanest technologies that fit their driving needs. For many, in the short term, this continues to be a new internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. As the supply chain of electric vehicles increases, and prices drop over the decade, the speed of change can pick up.

"Legislators must support the new car market"

What the Motor Industry needs from Budget 2022

Budget 2022 will play an important role in the step towards decarbonisation. SIMI proposes a four-point plan with a singular focus on reducing emissions by removing the oldest and most polluting vehicles from the Irish fleet, upgrading as many people as possible to the cleanest vehicle they can afford, and incentivising the new car market to move more rapidly towards electrification with an integrated implementation plan.

To reach our combined objectives, we need to:

- Rapidly decrease emissions by renewal of the fleet;
- Build consumer awareness and confidence;
- Incentivise consumer action to change; and,
- Achieve effective mobility management.

To achieve these objectives, SIMI proposes:

- VRT/Road Tax no increases; Vehicle Manufacturers are already driving down CO₂ (13% reduction in 2021);
- Extending current VRT relief for Electric Vehicles: due to expire at the end of 2021;
- Retaining current SEAI Grant for Electric Vehicles and PHEVs:
- Extension of 0% BIK for EVs out to 2025;
- Re-introduction of SEAI Grant for company cars/VAT Reclaim on purchase/lease costs; and,
- State investment support for charging infrastructure. To protect jobs and allow the sector to survive, we need a fair taxation structure. To achieve our climate change goals, this budget and future policies must lay the foundation to have an all-encompassing process where nobody is left behind and every citizen has a reasonable chance to improve their carbon footprint which is critical to our national success.











WILSONS AUCTIONS INSTALLS EV CHARGERS AT PREMISES



Peter Johnston, Wilsons Auctions Group Operations Director (right) with Andrew Wilson, Managing Director of Wilson Power and Energy Ltd who installed the new EV chargers at Wilsons Auctions' premises.

Wilsons Auctions has rolled out the installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers to its premises in an investment aimed at accelerating the transition to electric vehicles.

The chargers have been installed to service the increased provision of hybrid cars and fully electric cars for staff, as the auction company embarks on a project to reduce its carbon footprint by encouraging a greener solution to its company car offering.

Commenting Peter Johnston, Group Operations Director, said: "The installation of electric chargers further underlines Wilsons Auctions commitment to achieve net zero through our carbon reduction plan."

The installation was undertaken by Wilson Power and Energy Ltd, with Managing Director Andrew Wilson delighted that Wilsons Auctions chose his company. Andrew said: "The installation of charging units at their branches is a significant step for the auction group which extends to 18 sites across the UK and Ireland."

FORD TAKES PARKING TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH NEW TECH

As part of a collaboration with the German Association of the Automobile Industry, Ford has partnered with infrastructure providers and technology companies, including Bosch, to demonstrate the potential for a connected vehicle to communicate with the car park infrastructure to not only find a space but to park itself too. The technology, automated valet parking, is currently in the research and demonstration phase and could be extended to enable drivers to send the vehicle to a car wash or charging station; or even have parcels delivered to the vehicle in the car park.

With automated valet parking, sensor technology set up in the car park takes over the control of the vehicle and manages all the traffic inside the parking area. This is done via vehicle-to-infrastructure communication.

Upon arriving at the car park, the driver leaves the vehicle in a designated area and uses the FordPass app to start the automated guidance to a free parking space. Drivers use the FordPass app to request the return of the vehicle to the designated area, expediting the pick-up experience and enabling the driver and passengers to comfortably enter the vehicle.



Infrastructure-based sensors enable the vehicle to drive and park itself in car parks.

2 HI-TECH KIA EVS MAKE THEIR DEBUTS AT IAA MOBILITY

Kia Europe introduced not one but two highly advanced electric vehicles at IAA Mobility recently, the all-new plug-in hybrid (PHEV) Sportage and the EV6 – Kia's first dedicated battery electric vehicle (BEV).

Developed on an advanced new architecture, Kia says the PHEV Sportage encompasses a range of powertrain electrification innovations and technologies. It features Kia's 1.6L T-GDI engine, a 66.9kW permanent magnet traction electric motor and a 13.8kWh lithium-ion polymer battery pack. It also benefits from Kia's latest high-efficiency and high-performance hybrid starter generator (HSG) module. The



The PHEV Sportage from Kia.

HSG helps to deliver high-efficiency and NVH optimisation thanks in part to its hi-tech, performance-focused, permanent magnet arrangement with two-stage skew application. Kia describes the EV6 as a "pioneering crossover" and the first dedicated BEV launched under the new Kia design philosophy 'Opposites United'. It is also the first vehicle built on Kia's new electric global modular platform (E-GMP). The EV6 is powered exclusively by electric energy, and offers a choice of multiple long-range, zero-emissions powertrain configurations. It is Kia's first electric vehicle to be available with two-wheel (2WD) or all-wheel drive (AWD) options.



Kia's all electric EV6.



* of car buyers want personalised digital interactions with auto retailers when purchasing their next vehicle.

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*Source - Digitalisation: An Unstoppable Force in Automotive Retailing and Aftersales, Keyloop (2021)



RAPID RTC, a Keyloop company.

BRIDGESTONE LAUNCHES POTENZA SPORT TYRE

Bridgestone has launched its new Potenza Sport tyre in Ireland with significant stock and sizes now available. Bridgestone says the Potenza Sport, a premium ultrahigh-performance sports tyre, is here to keep drivers across Europe and beyond in control while unlocking the full performance of their vehicle.

Already chosen by prestigious car brands, including Maserati for its MC20 supercar, Lamborghini for the Huracán STO and BMW for the 8 series, with many more to come, Potenza Sport builds on Bridgestone's long legacy of expertise in high performance to deliver a new excellence in sports tyres that provides leading performance in the dry and outstanding control in the wet. Bridgestone says the Potenza Sport provides best-inclass performance in the dry. TÜV SÜD, the independent automotive testing institute, named Bridgestone Potenza Sport the best performer in dry braking, and the best at keeping a vehicle stable while travelling both in a straight line and through a curve, over premium tyres from other manufacturers. Potenza Sport also provides outstanding control in the wet - achieving the best performance in cornering and handling in wet conditions in further tests carried out by TÜV SÜD as well as receiving the best-inclass EU label A-grade in wet grip.

Developed and manufactured in Europe, Bridgestone Potenza Sport is on the market in Ireland now and will be



Bridgestone says its new Potenza Sport tyre offers outstanding control in the wet.

available in 96 sizes – from 17" to 22" – by March 2021, covering a wide range of passenger cars and on-road SUVs, ranging from premium sedans and SUVs to luxury and prestige cars.

BMW'S eDRIVE ZONES DEBUT IN DUBLIN AND LIMERICK



The BMW eDrive Zone technology automates the process of switching to electric-only power when a BMW plug-in hybrid vehicle enters a defined area of a city.

BMW has launched a new digital service, BMW eDrive Zones, in Ireland with a view to incentivising the take-up of electric driving. With electric ranges of up to 88km, BMW says its plug-in hybrid models are perfectly suited to urban and city driving and the new service aims to help drivers complete most commutes with electric power.

The BMW eDrive Zone technology automates the process of switching to electric-only power when a BMW plug-in hybrid vehicle enters a defined area of a city. Already active in Dublin and Limerick, BMW has further plans to launch its eDrive Zones in Cork and Galway in the coming year. Unique in the worldwide automotive industry, according to

BMW, and a first in Ireland, a BMW eDrive Zone automatically ensures that the electric power is conserved for use during the part of the journey that takes place within defined zones, if the journey destination is entered into the vehicle's navigation system. In addition, there are plans in progress to introduce the BMW Points loyalty programme in Ireland, where drivers of BMW plug-in hybrid models will be rewarded with attractive offerings via a point system. This has already been launched to BMW customers in the UK. Every electrically-driven kilometre will count and within an eDrive Zone twice as many points can be collected.

"This is the type of flexibility that customers want, as they make the transition to electromobility" said Kevin Davidson, Managing Director BMW Group Ireland commenting on the launch of BMW eDrive Zones. "We urge the Irish government to prioritise plug-in hybrid vehicles in order to achieve the shared objective of reducing CO₂ emissions. This technology will help improve air quality in cities around Ireland and also reduces running costs for drivers. It's win-win for everyone." The BMW eDrive Zones service, available as standard on BMW plug-in hybrid models running the latest BMW Operating System 7.0, uses geo-fencing technology via GPS within the vehicle's navigation system. The eDrive Zones in Dublin and Limerick are highlighted graphically on the vehicle's Central Control Display navigation screen, so drivers can see their location.



APCOA AND REEF OPEN MOBILITY HUBS IN IRELAND AND UK

Apcoa and Reef have announced a new partnership which will allow them to jointly turn existing locations in towns and cities across Ireland and the UK into distribution and logistics centres for greener, more efficient last-mile deliveries. Apcoa Parking Group is one of Europe's leading parking services operator with 50 years' experience operating in 13 countries. Apcoa is transforming its car parks into urban hubs, providing the physical and digital infrastructure for mobility, logistics, electric vehicle charging, and technology-based services.

With an ecosystem of 5,000 locations, over 200 brand



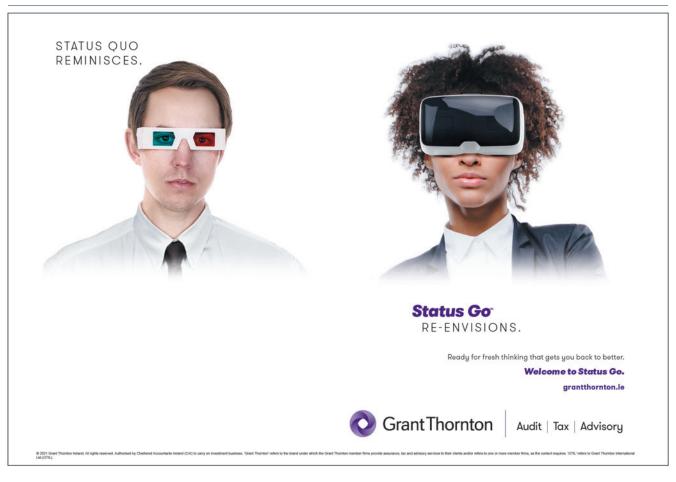
The Apcoa urban mobility hub model.

partnerships and a team of over 18,000 people, Reef says it is the largest operator of delivery restaurants and parking real estate in North America.

The deal supports Apcoa's network of 1,500 locations across Ireland and the UK. The type of new applications Reef will deploy includes its Reef Kitchens, on-demand food and retail services, vertical farms, and micro-fulfilment centres. By working together, Apcoa and Reef claim they will positively shape the future of towns and cities, turning them into more sustainable and inclusive centres of community and opportunity.



A Reef kitchen.



ROUND 2 OF ELVES F-GAS TRAINING





The second cohort of 14 learners on the ELVES F-Gas
Training project to provide Quality and Qualifications Ireland
(QQI) certified training to authorised treatment facilities
(ATFs) in its network around the country are set to complete
their course. F-Gases are used in vehicle air conditioning
systems and need to be removed from end-of-life vehicles
(ELVs) as part of the de-pollution process.

Since Brexit, UK certified qualifications no longer meet the requirements set out in EU law, namely the F-Gas Regulations in Ireland. ATF operators without a qualification, or those who did not meet the EPA deadline for transferring a previously achieved UK certification, now require EU recognised training and subsequent qualification to be compliant.

Recognising the challenges posed by the changing certification requirements, ELVES launched its F-Gas Training pilot project in April 2021 to provide Irish certified training to ATFs in its Network. After a successful first round of training, where 12 employees of ATFs achieved the F-Gas Handling in Mobile Air Conditioning Systems 5N0106 award, the next cohort of 14 participants from ATFs around the country undertook the course recently.

The training is offered free to employees of ATFs in the ELVES Network and is provided by Limerick and Clare Education Training Board.

MAHLE ANNOUNCES FAST-CHARGING SOLUTION

At the IAA Mobility 2021, the MAHLE technology group announced that it is expanding its intelligent charging solutions for electric cars. Mahle says that its 'chargeBIG Power' charging points are an important addition to fast charging with outputs of up to 750 kW.

The technology builds on the proven chargeBIG principle: the charging management system can be economically integrated into the existing infrastructure, particularly on long-distance routes, where there is still a lack of fast-charging options. Thanks to the intelligent control of the load distribution in the power grid, the charging system enables as many electric vehicles as possible to be charged from the available power supply at the same time. By selecting the tariff, the user can order the charging capacity that fits the electric vehicle and travel plan.

Mahle says its future focus is on a triad of sustainable drives comprising the electric motor, the fuel cell, and the use of non-fossil fuels in the intelligent combustion engine.



Fast-charging systems encourage the acceptance of electric vehicles, according to Mahle.

ŠKODA ENYAQ COUPE IV SET TO ARRIVE HERE IN MAY 2022



Under wraps: the Enyaq Coupé iV is due here in May next year.

Following the successful launch of the Škoda Enyaq iV, Škoda is adding another body variant to its first all-electric SUV range: the four-door Škoda Enyaq Coupé iV. Characterised by a sloping rear, the Coupé has a drag coefficient (cd) of 0.247, even lower than the one for the Enyaq iV making it more efficient and enabling it to cover more than 535km in the WLTP cycle when fitted with the larger battery (82kWh), according to Škoda.

There is a choice of two battery sizes and three power variants with rear- or all-wheel drive. The Enyaq Coupé iV is due to land in Ireland in May 2022.

Thomas Schäfer, Škoda Auto CEO, said: "We have made a great start on the international markets with our all-electric flagship Škoda Enyaq iV. The vehicle has been very well received by our customers, and roughly 70,000 orders have been placed. We will be upping the ante with the Enyaq Coupé iV; this variant of our e-SUV presents a real design highlight, rounding off the top end of our model range."

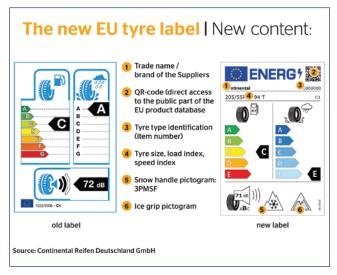


MOST IRISH MOTORISTS UNAWARE OF EU TYRE LABEL - CONTINENTAL SURVEY

The EU introduced a tyre label in 2012 that was aimed at providing consumers across Europe with key performance information at the point of sale when they were faced with choosing a new tyre for their vehicle. In May this year, the EU introduced a new and improved version of the tyre label, simplifying the way the performance detail is featured on the label and showing some additional attributes of the tyre. The trouble is not a lot of people in Ireland know about the existence of the EU tyre label. Premium tyre manufacturer, Continental Tyres, carried out a survey of Irish motorists in the months since the introduction of the new EU tyre label and more than two-thirds of respondents say they have never heard of the tyre label.

According to Tom Dennigan of Continental Tyres Ireland: "We welcome the recent introduction of the new and improved EU tyre label as any move towards providing motorists with more information on tyres is a very positive step.

"But, the EU, national governments, road safety bodies and indeed, the tyre industry itself, all need to do a better job in informing consumers. Some tyre retailers are very good at providing consumers with all of the detail they need when making a tyre purchasing choice, including showing the EU tyre label for the tyres that are available, but it is clear that many tyre retailers are not fulfilling their



Comparison of the old and new tyre label showing information included on both.

responsibility in this regard."

The Continental Tyres survey also showed that price was the number one factor in determining what tyre consumers opt for when buying a new tyre. 62% of motorists identified price as the main reason for choosing one tyre over another.

HONDA EXPANDS EV DEALER NETWORK IN IRELAND

Honda recently announced it is expanding its EV dealer network in Ireland. Under the expansion, there will now be seven specialised Honda EV dealers nationwide selling the all-electric Honda e.

The additional EV dealerships are:

- Slaney View Honda Carcur, Co. Wexford; and,
- John Adams Honda Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

To celebrate the expansion of the Honda EV network, Honda have teamed up with Energia to make the transition to driving electric hassle-free. The partnership offers all eligible customers of the Honda e a free Energia bundle, including the installation of a free home charging system plus a saving of 20% on green electricity with Energia. Customers simply check their SEAI grant eligibility and Energia will take care of the rest.

Speaking at the announcement, John Saunders, Sales and Marketing Director for Universal Honda Ltd, said: "With a greater focus on environmental issues we are witnessing our customers looking to seek cleaner mobility and energy choices here in Ireland. The expansion of our EV network represents our commitment to reflecting this change." Gary Ryan, Managing Director of Customer Solutions at Energia Group, commented; "Partnering with Honda, a globally renowned and innovative automotive manufacturing company, is a natural fit."



Gary Ryan, Managing Director of Customer Solutions at Energia Group, and John Saunders, Sales and Marketing Director for Universal Honda Ltd.



WINDSOR NAMED AS ONE OF IRELAND'S BEST MANAGED COMPANIES IN DELOITTE/BANK OF IRELAND AWARDS

Windsor Motor Group was named as one of Ireland's Best Managed Companies in the awards programme led by Deloitte Ireland, in association with Bank of Ireland. The company, which demonstrated superior business performance, was recognised at a virtual awards ceremony recently.

The winning companies represent 26 counties across the island of Ireland and come from a range of sectors. With this year's new winners, there are now 139 companies that are recognised as Ireland's Best Managed Companies. This network of companies has a combined turnover of €8.5 billion and employs a total of 40,000 people.

Ireland's Best Managed Companies Awards programme promotes and recognises excellence in Irish/ Northern Irish owned and managed companies and is the only awards scheme on the island of Ireland that considers a business' performance from every perspective. Entrants to the programme compete for the designation in a rigorous process



Peter Nicholson, Managing Director of Windsor Motor Group.

that evaluates the calibre of their management abilities and practices in addition to the strategy, capability, innovation, culture and financial performance of their companies. Commenting on the award, Peter Nicholson, Managing Director of Windsor Motor Group, said: 'I am delighted that Windsor Motor Group has been awarded one of Ireland's Best Managed Companies 2021. This is a great achievement for the group, particularly given the challenging environment throughout the past 18 months. This recognition reflects the talent, drive, and commitment that each and every employee brings, not

only to our business, but also to our customer experience every day." Anya Cummins, Lead Partner for Ireland's Best Managed Companies Awards Programme at Deloitte Ireland said: "This year, a record number of applications to the Ireland's Best Managed Companies Awards programme were received. The quality of the applicants demonstrated the extraordinarily high-quality businesses operating across the island of Ireland today. In a relentlessly challenging year, the winning companies displayed true bravery in how they adapted to change, with many innovating and some even accelerating their plans for their businesses."

The members of this year's judging panel were Frank Ryan, Chair of the Judging Panel; Harry Goddard, CEO, Deloitte Ireland; Nikki Canavan, Senior Director, Bank of Ireland Corporate Banking; Kate Malone, Director of Human Resources, IMI; Feargal Mooney, Non-Executive Director, Meetingsbooker; and Colm O'Reilly, CEO, The Business Post.

TOYOTA CELEBRATES ATHLETES' SUCCESS AT TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES



Pictured clockwise from top right: Toyota Ambassadors Nicole Turner, Ellen Keane, Patrick Monahan and Jason Smyth.

Toyota Ireland, proud sponsor of Paralympics Ireland and global sponsor to the Paralympic and Olympic Games, has extended its congratulations to the entire Irish Paralympic team and its brand ambassadors on their successes in the Tokvo Games.

Toyota Ireland has partnered with Irish athletes Jason Smyth, Ellen Keane, Nicole Turner and Patrick Monahan for the past four years and is proud to have supported them in representing Ireland on the global stage. Jason Smyth, the greatest Paralympic sprinter of all time, won gold in the T13 100m final, retaining his title and his unbeaten record across the past four Paralympics Games. Ellen Keane also put on a gold medal-winning display, placing first in the SB8 100m breaststroke. Swimmer Nicole Turner took home a silver medal in the S6 50m butterfly final. Patrick Monahan placed in the top 12 of the T54 marathon, finishing in 12th place, four places higher than his Paralympic debut in Rio 2016. Toyota's partnership with Paralympics Ireland aims to advance both organisations' objectives and bring Toyota's "Built for a Better World" brand proposition to life by showcasing the positive contribution it makes to life in Ireland.



We care about tyres that care about drivers.

Every day, for the last 150 years we have reinvented the wheel, striving to improve what appeared already perfect.



ZUCAR'S GROUNDBREAKING ONLINE PLATFORM



The ZuCar.ie platform is part of the Joe Duffy Group.

The Joe Duffy Group continues to expand its dealer footprint with the launch of new features on its ZuCar.ie online platform. Zucar.ie has offered online transactions since 2020 and, with a larger number of customers increasingly comfortable completing their purchase entirely online, the company says its new features makes the car-buying journey even easier.

In addition to an enhanced online facility, the new platform now offers customers an omni-channel retail experience. They can also choose to purchase physically from one of three nationwide guest experience centres (in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick). Looking ahead, the platform plans to offer 90% population cover in Ireland within a one-hour drive time in addition to their nationwide home delivery service. Following the launch of ZuCar in 2019, it has rapidly become a recognised national car brand selling thousands of cars. Online browsing is made easier with a new enhanced feature, Help Me Choose, a unique new way to refine car search by vehicle specification, features, and equipment options. Other new ZuCarie features include:

- Hold me this allows any car to be held until noon the next day for free and means that the car you are interested in will not be sold;
- Move me closer any car can be moved to Dublin, Cork, or Limerick for customers to view and test drive at a location that suits them; and,
- Buy me this allows customers to reserve a car they were looking at on the platform for €99 or complete the purchase online.

Gavin Hydes, ZuCar CEO, commented: "At ZuCar, customers can view and order any of our cars fully online in our virtual showroom, with a range of warranty, finance, and protection products as well as nationwide delivery options.

"With the unrivalled peace of mind and security provided by a trusted Irish brand, ZuCar is part of the Joe Duffy Group. The Group has an enviable portfolio of world-famous marques, which generate lots of quality part-exchanges. Customers also have the additional comfort of knowing that they are dealing with a motor group that has been in operation for 50 years, representing 15 brands and 21 nationwide locations."

MERCEDES-BENZ UNVEILS NEW ALL ELECTRIC EQE



The EQE, an all-electric version of the E-Class, and latest addition to the Mercedes-Benz EQ family of electric-powered vehicles, debuted at this year's IAA Show in Munich. First versions are expected to be available in Ireland next March, with prices to be announced at the time of introduction.

DACIA 'REINVENTS' 7-SEATER FAMILY CAR



The Jogger from Dacia on display in Munich.

Dacia presented its reinvented seven-seater family car, the Dacia Jogger at the IAA Mobility 2021 show in Munich recently. This follows the renewal of the Sandero and Duster last Spring. These vehicles were all on show in Munich in an environment designed to reflect the brand's new identity and spirit.

The Jogger was displayed on a wooden barge known as Lake Camp, located by the Munich motor show's entrance. The unique display evoked the outdoor spirit behind the all-new seven-seater family car. Dacia says the generous dimensions of the Jogger mean the car has the best price-to-space ratio in the segment, making it the most affordable seven-seater on the market.



SUMMER SLUMP FOR EUROPEAN NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

In July 2021, the European passenger car market suffered a significant setback after four months of accelerated growth, with new registrations down 23.2% to 823,949 units, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA).

The EU's four major markets showed similar trends, all posting significant losses. France saw the steepest decrease (-35.3%) in July, followed by Spain (-28.9%), Germany (-24.9%) and Italy (-19.2%).

During the month of August, car registrations across the European Union decreased by 19.1% – compared to the same month last year – to reach 622,993 units. For the second month in a row, the largest car markets posted double-digit declines: Spain (-28.9%), Italy (-27.3%), Germany (-23.0%) and France (-15.0%).

Over the first eight months of 2021, sales volumes saw a yearon-year increase of 11.2%, counting 6.8 million new passenger cars in total. Despite the weak performance of EU markets during the summer months, substantial gains earlier in the year kept cumulative growth in positive territory.



The EU's four major markets all posted losses.

SUZUKI INTRODUCES THE JIMNY LIGHT COMMERCIAL VERSION TO IRELAND



The Suzuki Jimny LCV.

Suzuki has introduced the two-seater light commercial vehicle (LCV) version of its small and lightweight Jimny offroader to Ireland in limited numbers.

Since its global launch in 2018, the latest Jimny has attracted both private users and professionals who seek authentic off-road performance, according to Suzuki. Now, to further meet the needs of business professionals, the Jimny LCV comes with a large 863L load area compartment with flat floor and safety cargo partition. Jimny LCV is available in one specification grade which includes air conditioning, Allgrip Pro selectable 4WD with low transfer gear, DAB radio, dual sensor brake support and cruise control with speed limiter. With one model available, pricing is €20,995 (including Commercial Vehicle VRT) as a solid colour with optional single-tone metallic paint available at €370 and dual-tone metallic at €750.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AT MICHELIN TYRE

Michelin Tyre PLC has appointed Conor Twomey as Communications Director for the UK and Ireland. The role encompasses press and public relations, social media, events and internal communications across the UK and the Republic of Ireland and covers the entire Michelin brand portfolio, including car, motorcycle, bicycle, truck, bus, agriculture and construction tyres and the world-renowned Michelin Guide, as well as Michelin's growing interests in sustainable industries such as hydrogen power and high-tech materials.

Conor brings more than 20 years' experience, both in journalism and in public relations, to his new role at



Conor Twomey is the new Communications Director for Michelin UK and Ireland.

Michelin, having worked for numerous media outlets in Ireland and the US before beginning a new career in public relations in 2010 and relocating to the UK in 2013. Since then, he has worked

in PR for Jaguar, Fiat, Alfa Romeo and, most recently Mitsubishi, where he also oversaw social media, events, internal communications, partnerships and government affairs.

Chris Smith, Managing Director UK and Ireland, commented: "As Michelin evolves to meet the changing needs of consumers and make environmental protection a core focus, having an experienced communicator such as Conor on board is really going to help us get those messages to as wide an audience as possible. His interest in all things mechanical means he will instinctively know which of Michelin's many interests to spotlight in as engaging a way as possible."

Faster Project set to install rapid charging points in border counties

The Faster Project aims to provide much-needed electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure through the installation of 73 rapid charging points in the border counties of Ireland, in Northern Ireland, and in Western Scotland with €6.4 million funding under the EU Interreg VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



A panel discussion at the launch of the Faster Project focused on the biggest EV talking points of the moment. The panel included (I-r): Brian Cooke, Director General, SIMI; Mark McCall, Director, Electric Vehicle Association Northern Ireland; Gemma Robinson, FASTER Project Manager, The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership, Scotland; Gary McRae, Head of Electric Mobility with Urban Foresight, a dedicated smart city consultancy; and Simon Acton, Chair of the Irish Electric Vehicle Owners Association.

The project is intended to help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels by encouraging increased use of more environmentally-friendly forms of transport and also seeks to address some of the barriers to greater public uptake of EVs. The Faster Project was launched on World EV Day, a day of celebration of e-mobility and a day that is intended to help shift the transition to sustainable transport with consumer, business and policy outcomes.

18-month schedule

The Faster EV charging network will be installed on a phased basis over the next 18 months supported by a series of public awareness and community engagement events, promotional campaigns and initiatives to address public concerns with existing charging infrastructure and produce materials to support the transition to low emission vehicles.

The project is being led by East Border Region, a local authority-led cross border organisation, in partnership with a cross-border consortium which includes: Ulster University; South West College; University of Strathclyde; the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership, Scotland; Louth County Council; and Dundalk Institute of Technology. The consortium is also working with a range of local authorities across the three jurisdictions to identify suitable locations for this much-needed infrastructure which will help revolutionise public charging for EVs. The €283m Interreg VA Programme is one of 60 similar funding programmes across the European Union designed

to help overcome the issues that arise from the existence of a border. These issues include access to transport, health and social care services, environmental issues and enterprise development. The SEUPB is responsible for the implementation of the Interreg VA Programme.

Warm welcome

Match-funding for the project has also been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland. Welcoming the project, the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, said: "EVs play a vital role in decarbonising our transport sector. The rollout of 73 rapid charging stations, as part of the EU Interreg VA programme, will further incentivise the switch away from fossil fuel vehicles and will benefit drivers across all three jurisdictions." The Northern Ireland Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon, commented: "I am committed to supporting the transition to EVs as part of the wider decarbonisation of transport and to working to help deliver a change in the way we travel that also helps us to tackle the climate

Speaking at the official launch of the Faster Project, Cllr Kyle Savage, Chairman of East Border Region, stated: "East Border Region are delighted to be lead partner on this innovative project. This project clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of cross-border collaboration and the benefits to be gained by adopting a strategic approach to sustainable infrastructure development."





SIMI Skillnet 2021

Training Courses

Details of SIMI Skillnet subsidised courses and other SIMI training courses planned for the coming months are listed below. Further information on all courses is available on www.simi.ie

Note: all courses are provided online unless otherwise stated.

Selling in a Digital Environment

Tuesday, October 12 or Tuesday, November 23

Focusing on how to enhance a dealer's sales team's skills and confidence to create sales leads and increase conversions by using digital technology within the sales process.

TRAINER: Navigate Solutions Ltd

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 2pm-3.30pm; Session 2:

3.45pm-5.15pm **DURATION:** Half day **COST:** €73.80 incl. VAT

NEW

Introduction to Social Media



Tuesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 14

This course is designed for those who have marketing roles and need a working understanding of digital marketing. Part One focuses on an overview of digital marketing and Part Two looks at marketing on social media.

TRAINER: Lush Marketing

DAY SCHEDULE: 9.30am-12.30pm each day

DURATION: Two half-days **COST:** €123 incl. VAT



Wednesday, November 17

Given the uncertain trading environment, profitability from new and used car sales cannot be guaranteed in the medium to long term. As a result, every profit opportunity in aftersales must be maximised to the full. Aftersales business is very resilient during a period of economic volatility, however, proactive management will help realise the opportunities that would otherwise be missed.

TRAINER: Navigate Solutions Ltd

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 1.30pm-3.30pm; Session 2:

3.45pm-5.45pm **DURATION:** Half day **COST:** €123 incl. VAT

Oscilloscope Operation and Test Methods Monday, October 18 and Tuesday, October 19

Automotive oscilloscopes are being increasingly utilised for the confirmation of faults and are now an essential piece of equipment for any workshops. This course is for any automotive technician expected to diagnose vehicle system faults and test electrical circuits or components.

TRAINER: MKW

DAY SCHEDULE: 9am-5pm each day

DURATION: Two days

COST: €320 (for members); €370 (for non-members) (VAT

not applicable)

Making a Marketing Video

Tuesday, 19 October; Tuesday, October 26; and Tuesday, November 2

For small business owners and their staff who want to produce affordable professional looking videos for their businesses on their phone or laptop with ease. Module 1 focuses on creating a video profits blueprint; Module 2 addresses specific video-making skills; and Module 3 looks at marketing your video.

TRAINER: CB Media

DAY SCHEDULE: 10am-1pm each day

DURATION: Three days over three consecutive weeks **COST:** €246 incl. VAT (total cost for all three modules)



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Margaret O'Shea, Network Manager on email: training@simi.ie or call + 353 1 6761690

NEW

Parts Management Workshop

Tuesday, October 19; Wednesday, October 20; and Friday, October 22 or

Tuesday, November 23; Wednesday, November 24; and Thursday, November 25



SIMI Skillnet, in response to requests from members, will deliver a series of workshop sessions specifically around the effective management of the parts department. The workshops are aimed at developing the skills of Parts Managers, Aftersales Managers, and senior parts staff.

TRAINER: ASE Global Ltd

DAY SCHEDULE: 9.30am-12.30pm each day

DURATION: Three half-days (three virtual sessions of three-

hour blocks)

COST: €246 incl. VAT

Used Vehicle Sales Management

Wednesday, October 20 or Tuesday, November 23



How to identify and review the key processes and practices that will ensure effective used vehicle management and avoid common pitfalls.

TRAINER: Navigate Solutions Ltd

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 2pm-3.30pm; Session 2:

3.45pm-5.15pm **DURATION:** Half day **COST:** €73.80 incl. VAT

Facebook For Beginners

Thursday, October 21



This online interactive course aims to provide the participants with the skills, tools and knowledge to be able to use Facebook effectively in their business for networking with existing and new customers and for customer acquisition.

TRAINER: Sandra Hennessy, Be Dynamic

DAY SCHEDULE: Half day **DURATION:** 2pm-4.30pm

COST: FREE

Customer Retention

Thursday, October 21 or

Wednesday, November 24

Using effective customer retention strategies to improve Dealer profitability while building and protecting the customer database.

TRAINER: Navigate Solutions Ltd

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 2pm-3.30pm; Session 2:

3.45pm-5.15pm **DURATION:** Half day **COST:** €73.80 incl. VAT

Service Advisor

Tuesday, October 26; Wednesday, October 27,

Thursday, October 28 or

Tuesday, November 23; Wednesday, November 24; and

Thursday, November 25

Aims to provide trainees with the skills and knowledge to effectively and efficiently operate with confidence as a Service Advisor/Receptionist in the Retail Motor Industry.

TRAINER: ASE Global

DAY SCHEDULE: 10am-12.30pm each day

DURATION: Three days **COST:** €123 incl. VAT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Margaret O'Shea, Network Manager on email: training@simi.ie or call + 353 1 6761690



Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Systems Wednesday, October 27; Thursday, October 28;

and Friday, October 29

This qualification is the complete IMI Level 3 Award in Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Repair and Replacement (Ref: 603/1468/0). On completion of this qualification, technicians will have gained knowledge and skills of high voltage component replacement. Successful candidates completing the IMI online test of VSH 267 will be certificated by IMI Ltd.

TRAINER: MKW Motors

LOCATION: MKW Motors, Baldonnell, Dublin 22

DAY SCHEDULE: 9am-5.30pm each day

DURATION: Three days

COST: €560 (VAT not applicable)

Customer Service & Complaint Handling Wednesday, November 10

Workshop to help staff develop a greater understanding of communicating effectively with customers both on the telephone and face-to-face.

TRAINER: Karen Sommerville, Call Focus.

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 10am-1pm; Session 2: 2pm-5pm

DURATION: One day **COST:** €86.10 incl. VAT

Facebook Advanced

Thursday, November 18 and Tuesday, November 23

This online interactive training will be delivered over two sessions and is designed to enable all participants to take their Facebook strategy and activity to the next level, and increase sales and leads.

TRAINER: Sandra Hennessy, Be Dynamic

DAY SCHEDULE: Two half-days **DURATION:** 10am-12.30pm each day

COST: €43.05 incl. VAT

VAT & VRT

SIMI MEMBERS ONLY

Thursday, November 25

Suitable for accounts and sales staff in retail garages.

TRAINER: Jimmy Rynhart

DAY SCHEDULE: 10am to 12.30pm approximately

DURATION: One day **COST:** €184.50 incl. VAT

Telephone Sales Techniques

Wednesday, December 1

This practical and interactive workshop is designed for staff of all levels who interact with customers in a sales, parts, aftersales or service advisor role.

TRAINER: Karen Sommerville, Call Focus

DAY SCHEDULE: Session 1: 10am-1pm; Session 2: 2pm-5pm

DURATION: One day **COST:** €92.25 incl. VAT

2021 Generation Apprenticeship Employer of the Year Awards

The 2021 Generation Apprenticeship Employer of the Year awards will recognise and celebrate employers who stand out for their resilience and their willingness to embrace innovation as part of their survival strategies over the past year, in particular as they supported their apprentices in-training. It is designed to operate in two stages. Stage 1 is regional, among employers grouped within the nine Regional Skills areas. The regional winners will then go on to a national stage (Stage 2). The awards will be widely promoted and supported by Ministers Simon Harris TD, Niall Collins TD, and other stakeholders.

This year, as providers of the National Sales Apprenticeship, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB) are delighted to have nominated McElligott's Tralee for consideration for this prestigious award. Their Sales Apprentice Kieran Coggins joined the programme in September 2020 and has excelled throughout his first year. Supported by his workplace mentor Martin Mullane, Kieran has fully embraced the apprenticeship model – studying the academic component of the programme while being released from the workplace and bringing his learning back to McElligott's.

For further information about the Sales Apprenticeship programme please contact apprenticeship@msletb.ie Next intakes in November 2021 and February 2022.

SIMI Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Margaret O'Shea, Network Manager on email: training@simi.ie or call + 353 1 6761690







- Tests carried out by TÜV SÜD on the request of Bridgestone in July-September 2020 at the facilities Bridgestone EUPG (Italy) for dry and wet tests with Audi S4 3.0 TFSI, on tyre size 245/40 R18. Potenza Sport compared to the performances of main competitors in the same segment: Continental Premium Contact 6, Michelin Pilot Sport 4, Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 5, Pirelli P Zero PZ4. Annex Report No. [713190691-PS].
- 2) Maintain vehicle stability when travelling both in a straight line and through a curve. Straight stability, rating: Bridgestone Potenza Sport (9.33), Continental Premium Contact 6 (9.00), Michelin Pilot Sport 4 (8.67), Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 5 (8.67), Pirelli P Zero PZ4 (8.56). Cornering stability, rating: Bridgestone Potenza Sport (9.21), Continental Premium Contact 6 (8.13), Michelin Pilot Sport 4 (8.67), Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 5 (8.33), Pirelli P Zero PZ4 (8.58).
- 3) Shortest braking distance on dry surface. Dry braking distance (100 km/h to 0 km/h), metres: Bridgestone Potenza Sport (33.4), Continental Premium Contact 6 (35.4), Michelin Pilot Sport 4 (34.5), Goodyear Eagle F1 Asymmetric 5 (35.9), Pirelli P Zero PZ4 (34.8).
- 4) Awarded EU Label Grade "A" for Wet Grip Index.

For your nearest Bridgestone Authorised Dealer, visit our website **www.bridgestone.ie**

BRIDGESTONE





BEST CORNERING & STRAIGHT LINE STABILITY 1) 2)



BEST DRY BRAKING 1) 3)



OUTSTANDING
WET PERFORMANCE 4)







support schemes and their tax implications.

Throughout the pandemic, the Government has made amendments and extensions to Covid-19 business support measures. It has committed to there being no 'cliff edge" scenario for business supports. Supports, as administered by the Revenue Commissioners, include the extension of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS), extension of Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), a new Business Resumption Support Scheme (BRSS) and tax debt warehousing.

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme

The EWSS has assisted businesses adversely affected by Covid-19 by providing a wage-related subsidy payment to employers and applying a reduced rate of employer PRSI of 0.5%. The EWSS remains in place until December 31, 2021 with existing subsidy rates applicable to September 30, 2021 (Table 1).

Employee gross weekly wage	Weekly subsidy payment
Less than €151.50	Nil
From €151.50 to €202.99	€203
From €203 to €299.99	€250
From €300 to €399.99	€300
From €400 to €1,462	€350
More than €1,462	Nil

Table 1.

Current EWSS eligibility requires the employer to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Revenue that the business is expected to experience a 30% reduction in turnover or customer orders and that this disruption to normal operations is as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The comparative period for this 30% reduction test depends on when the trade commenced. For existing businesses, i.e., where the trade commenced before January 1, 2019, the employer must demonstrate a 30% reduction in turnover or customer orders in the period January 1 to December 31, 2021 when compared with the whole period January 1 to December 31, 2019 for paydates on or between 1 July and 31 December 2021. Employers are also now required to complete a monthly EWSS Employer Eligibility Review Form (ERF) via Revenue's On-Line Services (ROS).

Clarification on the qualifying criteria for the subsidy with respect to Quarter 4 2021 is awaited. The Government has stated it is considering the introduction of a required employer contribution towards employee wages. This may apply where, for example, an employee's gross weekly wage is €300 and the EWSS payment fully reimburses the employer for such wage expense, in which case the Government may require the employer to contribute an amount towards the wage cost.

Business Resumption Support Scheme

A new support scheme has been introduced with effect from September 1, 2021 to support vulnerable but viable businesses as they reopen.



The BRSS provides a once-off payment (up to a maximum of €15,000) to businesses significantly affected by Covid-19 even after an easing of public health restrictions and irrespective of whether they have previously qualified for other Covid-19-related Government schemes. Claims must be made between September 1, 2021 and November 30, 2021.

The scheme is open to self-employed individuals, partnerships and companies carrying on a trade. To qualify, a business must demonstrate that its turnover is adversely effected during the period from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, i.e., turnover during the period did not exceed 25% of the reference turnover amount being the actual average weekly turnover in the comparative reference period (see Table 2).

Commencement of business	Comparative reference period
Before 26 December 2019	From 1 January 2019 (or start date, if later) to 31 December 2019
On or after 26 December 2019 and before 10 March 2020	Date of commencement to 15 March 2020
On or after 10 March 2020 and before 26 August 2020	From date of commencement to 31 August 2020
After 26 August 2020	BRSS not available

Table 2.

Qualifying businesses will be able to make a claim for a single payment equal to three times the amount as derived from:

- 10% of the average weekly turnover during the reference period to a maximum weekly €20,000; and,
- 5% of any excess average weekly turnover over €20,000 (subject to a maximum BRSS single payment amount of €15,000)

Where a business has more than one relevant business activity, the BRSS payment will be related to the trade. For example, where a single trade is carried out from two premises, a single BRSS payment may be claimed where eligibility conditions are met. Conversely, where two trades are carried out from a single premises, a BRSS claim may be made for both relevant business activities such that a maximum of €15,000 may be claimed for each trade. The BRSS payment will be treated as an advance credit for trading expenses (ACTE), i.e., it will not be considered taxable income but will be taken into account when calculating taxable trading profits by way of a reduction in the amount of tax deductible expenditure.

Other qualifying requirements include:

- having a current tax clearance certificate;
- having complied with VAT obligations;
- not being entitled to make a claim for the CRSS in respect of any week that includes September 1, 2021; and,
- actively carrying on a trade and having an intention to continue to do so.

Similar to other support schemes, applications are made on a selfassessment basis so supporting documentation must be retained. Revenue will publish the names of claimants on their website.

Debt Warehousing Scheme

The debt warehousing scheme provides the ability to defer certain tax liabilities and is available where taxpayers, as a consequence of Covid-19, are unable to pay their relevant tax. Liabilities available for warehousing are:

- VAT:
- employer PAYE liabilities;
- TWSS liabilities;
- EWSS overpayments; and,
- certain income tax liabilities.

The scheme operates under three phases (see Table 3).

Period 1: Covid-19 restricted	This covers the period from first restricted trading due to Covid-19 and ceases on 31 December 2021.	
trading period (0% interest)	Qualifying tax liabilities during this period may be warehoused without accumulating interest.	
Period 2: Zero	From 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.	
interest period	Qualifying warehoused tax liabilities will not attract interest during 2022 – you may choose to repay some or all of the outstanding liability during 2022.	
Period 3: Reduced interest period	Period 3 starts on 1 January 2023 and runs until such time as all of the warehoused liabilities have been discharged.	
(3% interest p.a.)	A reduced 3% interest rate will apply to the outstanding tax debt. A repayment plan should be agreed with Revenue before 31 December 2022 which will be based on the individual circumstances of the taxpayer.	

Table 3.

There is the continual condition of filing all relevant tax returns for the restricted periods. Businesses that fall within the SME criteria and whose affairs are looked after by the Personal or Business divisions of Revenue automatically qualify for the scheme, whereas larger business must apply to Revenue for the scheme. It should be noted, where PAYE liabilities are unpaid by the employer (for example through the tax debt warehousing facility), certain directors may not be able to claim a credit for PAYE withheld when filing their Form 11 personal income tax return.

Covid Restrictions Support Scheme

Where a business is still subject to restrictions in line with the Government's "Plan for Living with Covid-19" such that they are prohibited or considerably restricted from allowing customers to access their business premises, the CRSS may continue to apply.

The CRSS provides businesses that are carrying on a trade or trading activities with an advance credit for trading expenses (ACTE) payment of up to €5,000 per week per business premises. The CRSS was extended to September 30, 2021. CRSS also provides for "restart week" payments to assist businesses that reopen and cease to claim the weekly CRSS payments. Where a business re-opens during the period from June 2, 2021 to September 30, 2021, a triple "restart week" payment will be available amounting to two weeks' payments (weekly maximum of €5,000) at double the normal rate of CRSS. The triple "restart week" payment will therefore be restricted to a maximum of €30,000. Claims must be made no later than eight weeks from the date on which the restrictions were lifted.

Michelle can be contacted at: Michelle.Dunne@ie.gt.com



TOP 10 SELLING CARS 2021





Hyundai Tucson **5,135** 5.3%

Toyota Corolla 3,983 4.1%





Toyota Yaris 2,559 2.7%

Toyota RAV 2,500 2.6%





Volkswagen Tiguan 2,492 2.6%

Škoda Octavia 2,427 2.5%





Toyota C-HR **2,352** 2.4%

Volkswagen Golf 2,151 2.2%





Ford Focus **2,047** 2.1%

Kia Sportage **1,962** 2.0%

NEW PASSENGER

CAR REGI		ATIOI	
Marque	01/08- 31/08	01/01- 31/08	Market share 2021 %
Alfa Romeo	11	26	0.03
Audi	254	3947	4.10
BMW	313	3956	4.11
Citroën	98	709	0.74
Cupra	14	157	0.16
Dacia	101	2058	2.14
DS	3	23	0.02
Fiat	8	193	0.20
Ford	299	6843	7.11
Honda	72	697	0.72
Hyundai	534	10116	10.50
Jaguar	6	159	0.17
Jeep	3	22	0.02
Kia	711	6170	6.41
Land Rover	59	731	0.76
Lexus	16	357	0.37
Mazda	57	1130	1.17
Mercedes-Benz	184	2879	2.99
MG	33	305	0.32
Mini	34	528	0.55
Mitsubishi	16	282	0.29
Nissan	266	4432	4.60
Opel	249	2571	2.67
Peugeot	210	4896	5.08
Porsche	5	146	0.15
Renault	244	3835	3.98
Seat	277	3831	3.98
Škoda	435	8373	8.69
Ssangyong	3	83	0.09
Subaru Suzuki	3 118	21 1137	0.02
Tesla	2	593	0.62
Toyota	538	12086	12.55
Volkswagen	738	11724	12.17
Volvo	89	1246	1.29
Private Import	10	45	0.05
Other	0	2	
Total August 2021	6,013	96,309	
Total August 2020	4,808	78,864	
2021 Change 2020 % Change 2021 - 2020	1,205 25.06%	17,445 22.12%	
70 Change 2021 - 2020	25.00%	22.12%	

TOP SELLING CARS AUGUST 2021

Position	Model	Units sold	Market share %
1	Hyundai Tucson	273	4.5
2	Toyota Corolla	194	3.2
3	Kia Sportage	172	2.9
4	Kia Niro	148	2.5
5	Volkswagen ID.3	142	2.4

Position	Model	Units sold	Market share %
6	Toyota C-HR	136	2.3
7	Ford Puma	132	2.2
8	Volkswagen Golf	132	2.2
9	Škoda Octavia	126	2.1
10	Nissan Qashqai	124	2.1





NEW LIGHT COMMERCIAL REGISTRATIONS

TEGIOTIATIONS					
Marque	01/08- 31/08	01/01- 31/08	% Share		
Audi	0	3	0.01		
Citroën	271	1503	6.06		
Dacia	3	21	0.08		
Fiat	8	346	1.40		
Ford	811	6225	25.12		
Fuso	13	75	0.30		
Great Wall	0	0	0.0		
Hyundai	20	285	1.15		
Isuzu	20	119	0.48		
Iveco	22	133	0.54		
Kia	28	255	1.03		
Land Rover	27	264	1.07		
LDV	50	283	1.14		
MAN	8	135	0.54		
Mercedes-Benz	84	1086	4.38		
Mitsubishi	14	122	0.49		
Nissan	38	1126	4.54		
Opel	293	1807	7.29		
Peugeot	483	2738	11.05		
Renault	332	3081	12.43		
Ssanyong	0	32	0.13		
Subaru	0	0	0.00		
Toyota	257	2042	8.24		
Volkswagen	133	2916	11.77		
Private Import	9	38	0.15		
Other	48	148	0.60		
Total August 2021	2,972	24,783			
Total August 2020	1,689	16,701			
2021 change 2020	1,283	8,082			
% change 2021 - 2020	75.96%	48.39%			

The latest statistics are available online at: https://stats.beepbeep.ie

BUSES/COACHES REGISTRATIONS

Marque	01/08- 31/08	01/01- 31/08	% Share
DAF	0	3	1.15
Higer	0	7	2.69
Isuzu	4	16	6.15
Iveco	0	7	2.69
MAN	0	0	0.00
Mercedes-Benz	4	5	1.92
Scania	0	0	0.00
Sunsundegui	0	24	9.23
VDL DAF	0	60	23.08
Volvo	1	2	0.77
Wrightbus	0	3	2.97
Yutong	0	0	0.00
Private Import	20	133	83.65
Total August 2021	29	260	
Total August 2020	3	101	
2021 change 2020	26	159	
% change 2021 - 2020	866.67%	157.43%	

NEW HEAVY COMMERCIAL REGISTRATIONS

Marque	01/08- 31/08	01/01- 31/08	% Share
DAF	17	288	16.20
Dennis Eagle	2	3	0.17
Fuso	7	35	1.97
Hino	0	1	0.06
Isuzu	7	71	3.99
Iveco	4	50	2.81
MAN	13	87	4.89
Mercedes-Benz	33	180	10.12
Renault	26	187	10.52
Romaquip	0	0	0.00
Scania	25	537	30.20
Volvo	25	306	19.86
Private Import	0	33	13.92
Total August 2021	159	1,778	
Total August 2020	183	1,541	
2021 change 2020	-24	237	
% change 2021 - 2020	-13.11	15.38	

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Used car prices surge 40% year-on-year

Used car prices have increased by 40% in the year from June 2020 to June 2021. A car bought a year ago might well have a higher resale value now. *Irish Motor Management* spoke to TCD and NUIG economist, Dr. Tom Gillespie, who has been tracking the trend.

Where you would typically expect to see car prices depreciating over the course of a year as mileage goes up, limited supply and intense demand means that cars are currently holding their value for longer and in some cases even appreciating in value. For instance, in some cases, a 2015 registered used car purchased on January 1, 2020 was worth more in July 2021, even after adding 20,000km to the car.

This tightening of supply and growth in demand is having the greatest impact on the lower end of the market and has been highlighted in DoneDeal's Car Price Index, modelled by TCD and NUIG economist, Dr. Tom Gillespie. "The price index we develop is showing year-on-year inflation of 40%," he says.

According to DoneDeal, the price index for used cars in its Motor Report is based on rigorous statistical analysis, using hedonic price regressions, of a dataset of over five million used car listings on DoneDeal since 2011. Around 80% of cars sold in Ireland every year are used cars and a recent analysis undertaken by Dr. Gillespie shows that used cars are now holding their value better than any time in recent Irish history (see Figure 1).

Impact of the Pandemic - highest inflation at the lower end of the market

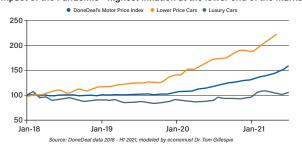


Figure 1. The impact of the pandemic on car prices.

Supply and demand

"Of the numerous economic phenomena that have emerged in the past year, the behaviour of the used car market is surely one of the strangest," says Dr Gillespie. "Until the outbreak of COVID-19, the depreciation of a car's value was as much a certainty as death and taxes. However, in today's Irish market there is a reasonable chance that if you bought a used car

this time last year it will be worth more now - even with the increased mileage."

It is partly created by a severe disruption to the supply and demand dynamic. Supply has been tightening up considerably. "We don't have the same level of UK imports because of Brexit and VAT."

There's also the long-tail impact of the 'boom' years of the early 2000s, as Dr Gillespie explains: "The stock of cars from that period – a surge in new car registrations from 2005-2007 – is reducing, and that's affecting supply. Also, the supply of new cars has been affected by semiconductor and material shortages with knock-on effects for the used car market." Specifically, the big rise in new car registrations in the from 2000 to 2008, and peaking in 2006 and 2007, is now far in the past, and as a result the stock of those cars, at almost 15 years of age, is starting to reduce. Nearly 670,000 new cars were registered between 2005 and 2008, compared to just 300,000 in the following four years 2009-2012 and – if 15 years is a life span for the typical car – the retirement of cars from the 2005-2008 era is also putting pressure on overall car market supply.

The B Word

Brexit has had an impact on several industries in Ireland, from food to tourism and beyond. It has also highlighted how dependent we are on the UK for used cars. "Certainly, imported used car registrations have fallen since Brexit," says Dr Gillespie (see Figure 2). "In 2019, there was about 110k imported used car registrations. In 2020, that was at 80k, and from this year up to July, it was 30k."

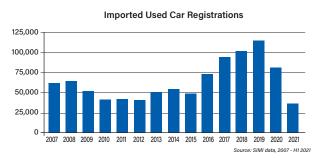


Figure 2. There has been a decline in imported used car registrations over the last few years, which has impacted supply.





The analysis undertaken by Dr Gillespie shows that used cars are now holding their value better than any time in recent Irish history.

Changes in Consumer Behaviour

Lockdowns, public transport restrictions and remote working have had numerous knock-on effects, including on our relationship with cars. In Dublin, some data indicated a significant fall-off in interest in public transport (see Figure 3). "With lockdowns in the past 18 months people have had to rely more on cars than public transport," says Dr Gillespie. "Also, people are moving back to rural Ireland."

"I work for Daft, the property website, where we did a report on coastal house prices. There was a noticeable increase in demand for houses near the coast. There's a clear trend toward changing lifestyle, moving away from the city and, if you choose to live in rural Ireland, you're more reliant on your car."

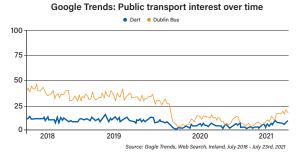


Figure 3. Google Trends data shows a pronounced decrease in interest in travelling by bus in Dublin since the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

Income Inequality

While many sectors shut down and unemployment soared as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, among those who were fortunate enough to remain employed, many saw their savings grow as their income remained stable, but they

had fewer opportunities to spend (cancellations of foreign holidays being a prime example).

"People have more money in their pockets, so a big-ticket item is more accessible. This, and all the other factors, are bringing in price inflation that we haven't seen before," says Dr Gillespie.

Enquiries on both new and used cars for sale on DoneDeal have increased significantly. Phone calls and emails sent to Dealers and Sellers in 2021 grew by 20% vs 11% in 2019, he reports. Monthly car searches have also seen sharp rises (Figure 4).

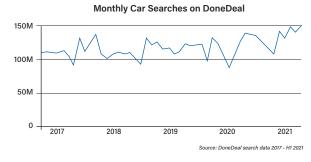


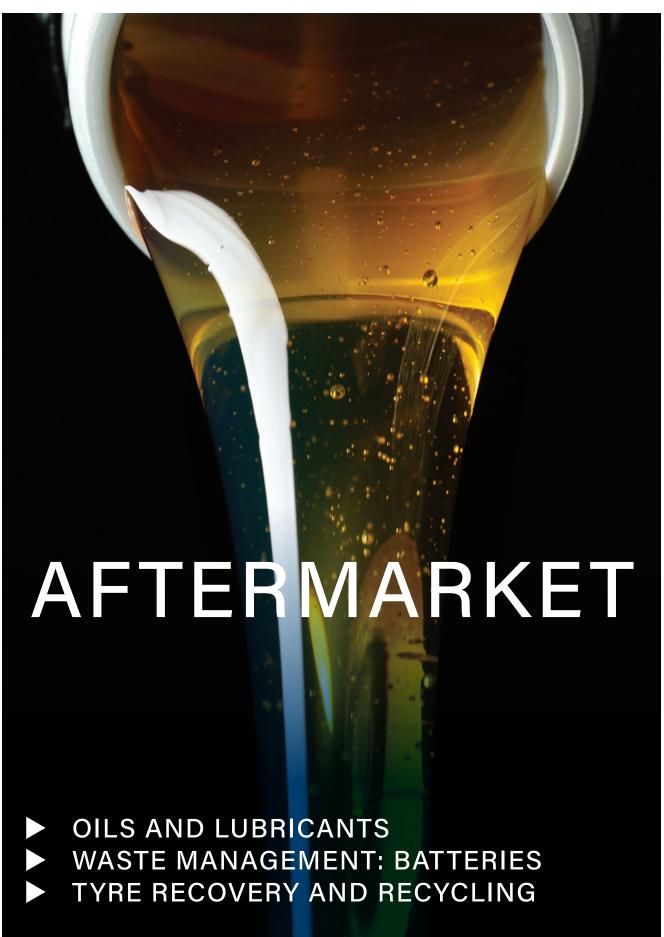
Figure 4. DoneDeal reports a rise in car searches on the site.

Future Trends

Dr Gillespie adds: "The indications at the moment are that supply will remain tight well into 2022. The current situation doesn't seem to be going away in the short term. So, we're likely to see this inflation continue – how steep it goes remains to be seen. There are reports that Japanese used car imports are coming in to fill the gap. How much that helps will be the next question."

The DoneDeal Price Car Price Index is an ongoing survey, with a new edition due shortly and regular updates throughout the year.





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Oils and lubricants offer enhanced engine protection

Oils and lubricants have four main functions: they control friction and wear in the engine, they protect the engine from rusting, they cool the pistons, and they protect the engine oil stored in the sump from combustion gases. Here, we look at the latest product offerings from two of Ireland's leading automotive lubricant suppliers.

In today's competitive market, garages are under pressure to deliver high-quality products to consumers who are unwilling to spend more and reluctant to settle for less. Providing the products and services which offer customers substantial benefit is a challenge. However, the consistent consumer demand for long-lasting, fuel-efficient engines gives garages the opportunity to offer customers a value-added product to help them meet their efficiency needs, with high-quality, effective fuel system cleaners, designed for better engine performance, lower emissions, and maximum fuel economy.

Today's focus on greater economy and lower emissions has led to engines being reduced in size and has increased the use of turbocharging. However, as smaller engines have less space available for oil, engine oils need to perform at ultimate efficiency immediately when the engine is started, lubricating, and protecting each vital moving part.

Fuel system cleaner



Techron technology works as a complete fuel system cleaner, according to Texaco.

Techron technology works as a complete fuel system cleaner, rather than just concentrating on one specific part of the engine, according to Texaco. Its active constituents help oxidise deposits, which causes them to dissolve into the fuel, before being burnt in the combustion chamber and exiting the engine as exhaust gases. Techron helps effectively clean key components, supporting the engine, so that it can operate at optimum efficiency. The treatment can therefore help to reduce the cost of long-term maintenance and provide better fuel economy.

A treatment of Techron is recommended every 6,000 miles/10,000 km and can help clean the fuel system in one tank of fuel.

Advanced formulation



Texaco Havoline motor oil with Deposit Shield is designed to help protect a modern engine against wear, while preserving fuel economy.

The advanced formulation of Texaco Havoline motor oil with Deposit Shield is designed to help protect a modern engine against wear, while preserving fuel economy. Formulated to bond with the moving parts of an engine, Deposit Shield Technology helps to prevent the build-up of harmful and efficiency-reducing deposits. The protective layer from Texaco Havoline is typically only two microns thick, but shields vital engine components when an engine stops, preventing the surfaces from resting together. Texaco says its lubricants drive automotive performance across Europe through a comprehensive range of engine oils for cars, heavy duty diesel engine oils for trucks, antifreeze, coolants, and a wide range of industrial lubricants. With more than 100 years' experience in Europe, lubricant ranges retail under the Texaco, Havoline, Delo, HDAX, VARTECH, and Techron brands, serving drivers and businesses globally.



CASTROL GTX DOUBLE ACTION FORMULA CLEANS AWAY OLD SLUDGE AND PROTECTS AGAINST NEW SLUDGE FORMATION BETTER THAN TOUGH INDUSTRY STANDARDS*











All independent car workshops that purchase Castrol engine oils for their workshop may qualify for the new Castrol branded workshop offer pack.

Life extension for engines

Castrol describes its GTX is one of the world's most trusted engine oils, with a track record of helping to extend the life of engines since it was first introduced in 1968.

According to its national authorised distributor in Ireland, Walsh Lubricants, Castrol GTX is liquid engineering that protects against problems, like sludge, that engines face every day. Its double action formula cleans away old sludge and protects against new sludge formation exceeding even rigorous industry standards, according to Castrol.

Today's modern engines demand a lubricant that has been approved by the engine manufacturer and not just during the warranty period. Castrol says using an engine oil that carries full manufacturer's approval gives a workshop and its customers peace of mind rather than using a product that is not approved and just "meets" the specification or is "suitable for use".

The new Castrol GTX range for independent car workshops carries all the major manufacturers' approvals, ensuring the vehicle being serviced receives the correct product that has the correct OEM approvals.

OEM approvals

Castrol GTX 5W-30 C3 is approved for all vehicles where the manufacturer recommends a long-life ACEA C3 product and has the long-life Volkswagen VW 504:507 approval along with the BMW LL04, Mercedes-Benz 229.31/229.51 and Porsche approvals. Castrol GTX 5W-30 A5 B5 with fuel efficiency is approved for use in Ford models requiring the FORD WSS-M2C913 -D approval.

Castrol GTX 5W-30 C2 is approved for use in Peugeot Citroën models requiring the PSA B71 2290 approval.

Castrol GTX 5W-30 C4 is approved for use in Renault models requiring the Renault RN 720 approvals along with the Mercedes MB approval 226.51. Castrol says the GTX range has the ability to meet the demands of all independent car workshops and is available in bulk, 208L and 20L packs. All independent car workshops that purchase Castrol engine oils for their workshop may qualify for the new Castrol branded workshop offer pack which includes a number of Castrol branded items including Castrol branded signage. Details of the full Castrol range of products and workshop offers are available from Walsh Lubricants.



Castrol GTX is liquid engineering which protects against problems that engines face every day, according to Castrol's national authorised distributor in Ireland, Walsh Lubricants.



Extended Producer Responsibilityhow it works

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.

The term producer usually refers to the first economic operator to put the product on the market here in Ireland. That can be the manufacturer, brand owner or the importing distributor depending on the supply chain model.

In Ireland, there are EPR Schemes managing several waste streams relating to the motor industry – waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries, tyres, packaging and end of life vehicles (ELVs). These EPR schemes are required to operate as not-for-profit organisations under approval from the Minister for the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

WEEE Ireland

WEEE Ireland is a compliance scheme supporting producers of household electrical appliances, lighting and batteries to meet their EPR obligations in Ireland. WEEE Ireland is a not-for-profit scheme owned by its 1200+ producer members and operating since 2005. The scheme has been delivering solutions for e-waste and battery recovery and recycling, as well as related compliance issues, to Irish industry for the last 16 years. In 2020, the Scheme achieved 47% take-back rate for portable waste batteries, surpassing the EU 45% target. WEEE Ireland blue battery boxes can be found in shops, schools, and businesses around the country to support recycling of smaller battery types.

Why recycle batteries?

Batteries can contain potentially hazardous materials such as mercury, cadmium and lead, which are the main cause for environmental concern. If waste batteries are not disposed of correctly, these heavy metals may leak when the battery corrodes, contributing to soil and water pollution and endangering human health.

It is important that used batteries are managed by authorised waste collection and treatment facilities only and that they are recycled so that their components can be used again.

How to comply

Should a dealer or distributor import a vehicle or individual batteries directly into Ireland, they are then the first to place these batteries onto the market and as such can have producer responsibilities. Suppliers of after sales batteries may also have producer obligations depending on their supply network. As a battery producer, garages, car dealers or distributors may have several obligations under the Battery Regulations,



The WEEE Ireland compliance scheme supports producers of household electrical appliances, lighting and batteries to meet their EPR obligations.

including registration, reporting, and provision of consumer information. Battery producers must register with the national registration body, Producer Register Ltd (PRL), and are required to make monthly submissions of the required data to the WEEE Blackbox. The data required is the exact weight and chemistry of batteries placed onto the Irish market. They will then be invoiced by their compliance scheme based on this reporting each month. Battery recycling management costs vary by type, weight and chemistry of battery. If you are importing diagnostic or IT equipment and accessories you may also have obligations under the WEEE Regulations and will also need to register and report these products into the WEEE system.

WEEE Ireland provides compliance solutions to producers for all types of batteries – automotive, industrial and portable.

Retailer obligations

All retailers supplying electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and automotive and/or industrial batteries must register each individual retail premises with their local authority (€200) or with the compliance scheme responsible for their area through the Licences.ie portal (free of charge). Retailer registration is a separate requirement from producer registration.

Retailers of batteries are also obliged to operate a free take-back of waste batteries (only similar to type sold) in store and inform

Retailers of batteries are also obliged to operate a free take-back of waste batteries (only similar to type sold) in store and inform customers about the free take-back options available to them.

Recycling lead acid batteries

Proper management of lead acid batteries at their end of life is important for human and environmental health and safety. These waste batteries are considered hazardous and should only be collected and transported for recycling by authorised operators.
KMK Metals Recycling Ltd. works on behalf of WEEE Ireland collecting all types of waste batteries from collection points around the country and then sorting them for shipment at Ireland's only dedicated battery sorting plant in its Tullamore

facility. WEEE Ireland also works with other operators who offer

collection services for waste lead acid battery types - ENVA

and Hi-Volt.

Recycling and recovery of the metals and other important resources in these waste batteries is carried out at specialist downstream facilities in Europe and reported back to WEEE Ireland. The scheme's annual report highlights the achievement of recycling efficiency targets for all waste battery streams handled by the scheme and its partners.

Enforcement and guidance

The EPA and local authorities in Ireland both have enforcement agency for different aspects of the WEEE and Batteries Regulations. The EPA has developed significant resources for businesses to help them comply with their obligations and these can be found on the EPA website.

Dealers, importers and distributors of EVs

Producers of long-life lithium batteries (LLLB) found in hybrid and electric vehicles also have responsibilities in Ireland under the Battery Regulations including registration with the Producer Register Ltd and reporting details of their supply of batteries onto the Irish market to the Blackbox on a monthly basis. They can choose to join a compliance scheme or self comply to report on extended producer responsibility obligations including take-back and financing of the end of life of batteries. Waste and damaged EV batteries can pose a health and safety risk. You must always refer to manufacturer's instructions for safe removal and storage of these batteries. These batteries MUST be removed and isolated by qualified personnel only. To submit a waste battery collection request from a dealer or distributor workshop, please contact WEEE Ireland at operations@weeeireland.ie. To submit a waste battery collection request from an authorised car dismantler or scrap yard (ATF) or from an end-of-life vehicle, please contact ELVES (the compliance scheme for end-of-life vehicles in Ireland) directly.

Future focus

WEEE Ireland has recently partnered with experts Reneos, to provide a pan-European compliance solution for EV and hybrid battery producers who supply their products across multiple EU Member States. This tailor-made solution for the industrial batteries sector enables multi-country collection of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries through a single point of contact at Reneos, ensuring compliant and safe transportation and storage of these batteries at end of life by Europe's market leaders in battery compliance. Contact Battery Manager Conor Leonard, conor@weeeireland.ie, for more information or see www.reneos.eu





Repak ELT sponsors Tyre Champion Award

The Motor Industry can be proud of its achievements in helping to transform the recycling landscape for waste tyres in Ireland, according to Repak ELT, the extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiative for end-of-life tyres in Ireland.

The Motor Industry membership of Repak ELT is making a real and valuable difference; in the first six months of this year, Repak ELT has, on behalf of its members, managed the recovery and recycling of almost 1.6 million passenger car tyres.

In recognition of the environmental efforts of its members, Repak ELT has sponsored the Tyre Champion Award at the 2021 Pakman Awards. This prestigious award honours those who show excellence in managing all waste that arises while doing business.

The Pakman Awards are now open for entries. All Repak ELT members are invited to enter the Tyre Champion category. All entries are free of charge. By entering, you could highlight your environmental achievements to a national audience with the potential of winning a national environmental award for your endeavours.

Repak ELT members can enter the awards at Pakman.ie. Sample entry form templates are available to download, in



Repak ELT managed the recovery and recycling of almost 1.6 million passenger car tyres in the year to June.

addition to examples from previous winners.

The 2021 Pakman Awards ceremony will be held on October 29 in the Shelbourne Hotel, subject to government guidelines, where winners of each category will be announced in addition to the winner of the overall Pakman Award.



In the last year, Repak ELT Members have helped recycle or recover over 3.4m tyres. We have also been able to significantly increase the percentage of tyres recycled on the island of Ireland. Play your part and join today! Call (01)4618600 or visit repakelt.ie and find out how you can benefit from being part of Ireland's Tyre Compliance Scheme.

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ELVES PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



ELVES, the end-of life-vehicle (ELV) compliance scheme, met the national targets of 85% reuse and recycling and 95% overall, when recovery is included, for 100% of ELVs in Ireland in 2019 (the year for which validated data is available), according to the scheme's annual report which has just been published.

These targets were achieved with 64 authorised treatment facilities (ATFs) in the ELVES network, which handled 67% of all ELVS in the country, the Annual Report states.

ATFs are an essential waste service and remained open and operational throughout 2020, not only for the acceptance and collection of ELVs, but also for the supply of quality secondhand parts. Additionally, metal re-processors also remained open to process the metal from the ATFs.

"The volume of ELVs has decreased, reflecting what has happened to our society and economy during 2020, but we really appreciate the efforts of the ATFs in remaining open and providing a valuable service," said Fiacra Quinn, CEO of ELVES.

"Although 2020 targets will prove challenging, we know the ELVES network has met the reuse, recycling and recovery targets and expect this to have a very positive impact on the national figures. Initial indications from the data provided by the network and the metal re-processors demonstrate a buoyant market in recovered materials, which is very promising," said Elena Wrelton, Environmental Compliance Manager, ELVES.

The Annual Report details the progress made on increasing public awareness in a year when normal communications channels, like public events, were upended. The Report also looks at progress made through Electric ELVES, the programme to support the takeback of electric vehicle batteries for recycling.

In addition to battery recycling, at the start of 2020 ELVES was able to offer in-person electric and hybrid awareness training to ATF staff under the Electric ELVES programme. With restrictions in place, this was suspended. The Electric ELVES training has gone online during 2021 and has been further supplemented with F-Gas training, a qualification required for the handling of mobile air-conditioning gases in vehicles.

MAZDA UPDATES CX-5 FOR **2022 LAUNCH**



The updated Mazda CX-5.

A significantly updated version of Mazda's CX-5, goes on sale throughout Europe early next year. The 2022 CX-5 introduces Mi-Drive drive mode selection, according to Mazda, and promises enhanced driving dynamics, new styling and stronger grade differentiation, improvements to on-board packaging and practicality, and an expanded range of safety features. The update introduces Mazda intelligent Drive Select (Mi-Drive), which enables the driver to select the most appropriate drive mode with one touch of a switch. Some model grades equipped with i-Activ AWD further benefit from an off-road mode. Mazda's next generation of Skyactiv-Vehicle Architecture has now been applied to the 2022 CX-5, further evolving the bodyshell, suspension and seats to enhance ride comfort and reduce fatigue. Road noise has also been greatly reduced, particularly when driving on rough surfaces such as gravel.

FIVE STAR SAFETY ACROSS THE ENERGY SPECTRUM



The Subaru Outback was one of five new cars to achieve a fivestar rating in the latest Euro NCAP safety tests.

Five new cars, representing a wide range of propulsion types, were tested in the latest round of Euro NCAP safety tests. The Audi Q4 e-tron, a pure electric vehicle, got a top star rating. The Toyota Mirai, one of only a few cars powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, followed suit with the maximum five stars, as did the new Subaru Outback, the only conventionallypowered car in these test releases.

The first European offerings of two Chinese brands - Lynk & Co's 01 hybrid and Nio's battery electric, the ES8 - achieved the maximum five-star rating. Lynk & Co is a brand that is new to Europe and the 01 takes advantage of its Geely family connection to share its underpinnings with the Volvo XC40. The hybrid SUV performed well all-round but its 96 percent score for adult occupant protection, including a maximum score for side impact, stood out. That, and a full set of active safety features, helped it secure its five-star rating.







Audi's first plug-in hybrid compact SUV

Engines/batteries: 1.4 TFSI petrol engine and 13.0kWh

battery

Pricing: from €46,305



Seven-seater aims for estate car practicality, MPV

space and SUV style Engines: TCe 110 petrol Pricing: To be announced



MERCEDES BENZ eCITAN

Latest Citan range includes an electric option, the eCitan Engines/batteries: 1.4L turbodiesel, 1.3L petrol, 44kWh

battery with factory-quoted 285km range

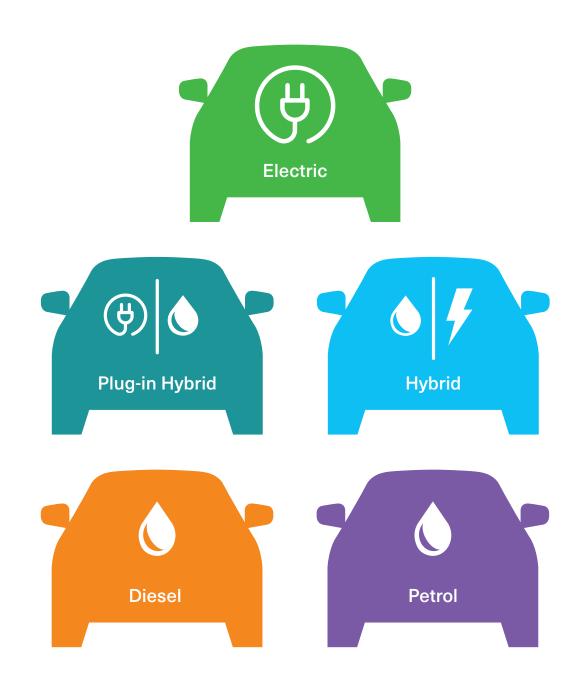
Pricing: To be announced



BMW IX3 M SPORT

First customer deliveries in Ireland from December 2021 Battery: 400V, with a range up to 450kms, according to **BMW**

Pricing: from €73,295



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