



October 2023 Update

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□ HALLOWEEN EDITION! □



AUDI A3

Just £14,799



BMW 1 SERIES

"SHADOW EDITION"

Just £14,699



SKODA YETI

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*If you want to sell your car, You don't have to go too far
No hidden costs just come to us, A fair price and no fuss!
Poets day - 5th October*

Where Has My Car Gone?!

Is it time to panic if you own a Hyundai or Kia? Well yes and no, it depends on where you live! Certain models are so easy to steal that they account for over half of all the cars stolen in Chicago this year and by my calculation that's over **20,000 vehicles, about one in 100**. By contrast only around 130,000 cars were stolen in the whole of the UK.



Offending Kias and Hyundais were sold without immobilisers and can easily be made off with using just a screwdriver. Alarmingly (pun intended), details on how to do it are posted all over the internet, making this a bit of a craze (in my day, a craze meant wearing flared trousers or riding a chopper pushbike). Affected owners in America have been paid a total of **\$200 million** after a recent class action. BUT DON'T PANIC! In Europe (and that still includes us) manufacturers have to fit separate immobilisers to all new vehicles. PHEW 😊

However Range Rover owners beware. After a spate of thefts, we have now heard reports of huge insurance premium increases - in one case from £900 to £12,000! In London some are simply uninsurable at the moment. Ask us about an immobiliser!

Bone-Tired?



We know 'Don't drink and drive' but 'No sleep, no drive'? Around **20% of accidents** on our motorways are caused by drifting off at the wheel and those drivers can be charged with death by dangerous driving, or death by careless driving. But if you haven't seen the driver asleep, how can you determine that fatigue caused the incident? Soon a test of biomarkers in the blood could reveal all!

Currently on trial in Australia, the test would be performed alongside the drink-driving check currently used by officers. The Government could then put in place a legal threshold of maximum tiredness for driving. The test is currently ~90% accurate in indicating whether a driver has been awake for longer than 24 hours, and should be **ready for rollout within 5 years**.

Anyone with grandchildren or puppies is in real trouble!

Trick Or Treat For Young Drivers?

Young drivers who've passed their test in the past year account for **just 6% of car drivers on UK roads, but a staggering 20% of serious or fatal crashes!** As research has proven peer-pressure as a significant risk factor, ministers are now considering a 'graduated driving licence' scheme which would prevent drivers under 25 having other young passengers in the vehicle for the first 12 months they hold a licence.



Whilst it seems an obvious step for many, opponents have concerns.

Carpooling can be essential for young people, especially in rural areas, and drivers over 85 still account for a larger percentage of incidents. Other ideas under consideration include a new driver number plate system for easier identification and introducing a minimum learning period to ensure drivers get more on-the-road experience before going solo.

Black box records seem to be the obvious step - not too popular with new drivers as they record all transgressions, but they are effective!

Looming Deadlines & Shocking Statistics!



We've been saying in this newsletter for months that a pushback of the 2030 ban on the sale of **new** internal combustion vehicles in the UK is likely to be delayed, probably to 2035 to match the European timelines. And guess what! But as our headlines fill with political dramas and interrogation of green pledges, perhaps more important is the immediate impact this has had on the outlook of the average car owner in the UK.

A poll put out following the Government's U-turn on the 2030 deadline found that the number of people claiming they'll never buy an EV has almost doubled, now standing at a staggering 37%. For context, that figure was 21% when the ban was first announced. **Only 39% are planning to own an EV by 2035** (down from 49% in a 2021 poll) and **40% of those planning to purchase an EV in the next 6 months have now changed their minds. An incredible 70% didn't even realise that the ban only applies to the sale of new cars and not used! 50% of those surveyed believe that the priority for investment should be alternative fuels.**

This is all bad news for manufacturers who have invested significantly ahead of the 2030 deadline. EV sales are already challenging, with huge falls in price point, and the mandate to sell at least 22% electric in the UK market next year (or face hefty fines) remains in place. And whilst we are in 'I told you so' mode, EV prices did actually rise last month as we predicted!

Scarily Slow?

How slow is Wales's new national speed limit for built up areas? Well, the Government has released official guidance for being overtaken by cyclists! The reduction from 30mph to 20mph is costing the Welsh Government £32.5m but is estimated to save £92m a year by reducing the impact on emergency services and the NHS. This might not be an outrageous claim either, given that more than **40% of those seriously injured or killed on Wales's roads are in a 30mph zone**. When hitting the brakes, a car travelling at 20MPH will have stopped by the time one travelling at 30MPH gets down to 20MPH. The policy will cover a staggering **7,700 miles of roadway, with just 3% of current 30MPH roads not making the transition.**

Despite the headlines, 63% of people in Wales support the transition.

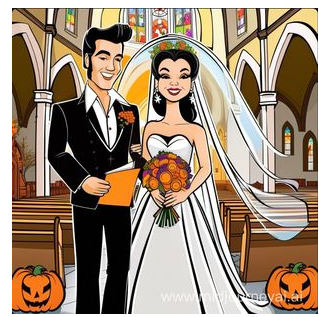
The average journey will be just 1 minute longer, with most delays determined by other factors, such as junctions and signals. We can definitely agree negotiating temporary traffic lights in Marlborough this summer, which made reaching 20MPH positively aspirational!



Our Comment: What! 20MPH! Even Rishi Sunak is looking to restrict the power of councils to enforce new 20MPH zones! For us it only makes sense if the restrictions cover areas of highest risk, such as near schools, hospitals, and old person homes. As most people live in built up areas the statistics are bound to reflect the disproportionate number of vehicles there.

[A Vegas Wedding This Halloween!](#)

Becky is heading off to Vegas to get married!
Try as we might, we cannot get Tom (the lucky man ☐) to agree to an Elvis ceremony - Becky is up for it but won't call things off over that issue alone. Well, we've told Becky she could just say "uh huh" when asked if she takes Tom..
Either way, Good Luck Becky! ☐☐



A spooky fact to finish - An Electric Vehicle charging station with 15 outlets requires as much power as a town of 5,000 inhabitants!

☐ HAPPY HALLOWEEN! ☐

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