

# Covid-19 Bulletin

18 June 2020



## **BVRLA launches its Covid-19 Recovery Plan**

Today the BVRLA has launched its [Covid-19 Recovery Plan](#), making clear to policymakers that the vehicle rental, leasing and fleet sectors can deliver a swift rebound in the economy and a faster trajectory towards transport decarbonisation.

The association has also [written a letter to Chancellor Rishi Sunak](#) providing a more detailed proposal on the tax and stimulus measures that should be deployed to ensure a net zero recovery and healthy automotive sector.

## **DVSA provides vehicle testing update**

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is recommending that fleet operators should get cars and vans tested now that garages are open, even if they have been granted an exemption during the Covid pandemic.

This will help to mitigate the risk of a backlog and too much demand at one time, once the six-month exemption period expires. Any vehicle that has been granted a six-month exemption will not have it removed.

For HGVs the plan is to start testing in July, although an exact date has not yet been confirmed. The DVSA anticipates giving a three-month exemption for vehicles whose test is due in July, including vehicles that have already been given a previous exemption.

From August, they will only give a three-month exemption to vehicles that are due for a test that month and which haven't already had an exemption. This approach will continue for the rest of the year to ensure that test centres are not hit with two-months' worth of tests needing to be done in one month.

DVSA recognises that October will present a problem because of the vehicles that were previously given a three-month exemption in April and then also in July. As well as threatening to overload test centres, this is also peak logistics season in the run up to Christmas. DVSA is seeking a change in legislation which will allow it to exempt certain vehicles from testing based on their age and Operator Compliance Risk Score (OCRS) score.

Members should email BVRLA Director of Fleet Services, Amanda Brandon with any questions at [amanda@bvrla.co.uk](mailto:amanda@bvrla.co.uk)

## **Road transport usage continues to rise**

According to the Government's [transport usage figures](#), car usage is back to 70% of average pre-pandemic levels. For all motor vehicles, the figure is slightly higher at 74%.

Average national rail usage figures remain low at 8%, whilst London Underground usage figures are at 14%.

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## **Jobs market starting to pick up**

According to the [latest figures from the Office for National Statistics](#), total online job adverts increased from 45.6% to 50.1% of their 2019 average, the largest increase since lockdown began.

The increase is spread relatively evenly across many categories of job adverts, with every sector seeing a positive change. While levels of online job adverts are still far below pre-lockdown levels, this may offer early evidence of some recovery in demand for labour.

## **Advice about the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme**

The Government's [YouTube video](#) about how to make a Self-Employment Income Support Scheme claim has been updated today. Members may also be interested in registering for the [next live webinar about the scheme](#).

## **Deferral of VAT payments ends on 30 June**

[Guidance for the Deferral of VAT payments](#) has been updated to include an end date of 30 June 2020. This means you'll need to:

- set-up cancelled direct debits in enough time for HMRC to take payment
- submit VAT returns as normal, and on time
- pay the VAT in full on payments due after 30 June