

# Days Gazette

WINTER 2007 ISSUE 003

## Days Accident Management 0870 902 0628

– give your drivers peace of mind for Christmas

**Low sun, wet roads, icy mornings and the motorised hoards of Christmas shoppers all combine to make this time of the year a difficult one for business drivers. Even the most careful can fall prey to someone else's bad judgement or become an innocent victim of seasonally poor driving conditions**

That's why we've just launched a fantastic new service for sorting out unfortunate incidents on the road. From the 3rd of December, our one-call hotline can get you back on the road in no time.

By freeing you up from the hassles associated with paperwork and phone calls, managing insurance details, bodyshops, and inconvenient repair schedules, you're free to get on with business. We can ensure you have immediate transport to carry on with your work, whilst we take care of the niggly problem of sorting out the situation.

Days Accident Management is a one stop solution for all accidents. Whether it be your fault or beyond your control – even in disputed cases we can step in and take over, with full 24 hour coverage and a 'one-call' incident management process.

From first notification to claim settlement we can reduce your workload, cost and duration of claims. Equally important Days Accident Management ensures drivers are a single phone call away from full support, wherever and whenever fate strikes.

So take an unnecessary element of worry out of your motoring life and be prepared for the worst. This great new "peace-of-mind" offering keeps you mobile,

You can start using Days Accident Management today by calling **0870 902 0628**. For a more efficient service call your Account Executive to discuss your Insurance Requirements.



### What's inside:

It's all very well saying 'don't drink-drive' – but drivers need to know they should be alcohol-free the next day in order to be safe to drive.

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Save £1000's on your next car! Hatchbacks4u.co.uk is the place to buy low mileage hatchbacks at huge discounts.

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## SANTA JOG



**Swansea Marina was recently over-run by 500 Santa's**, when The British Heart Foundation staged its first-ever Santa Jog in the city, involving a 2km course for runners dressed as Santa Claus. Several members of our staff joined the fun, hoping to contribute to the organizers target of raising over £20,000 from the event.

We're really proud of their fundraising efforts and would like to say a hearty "well done" to them all.

*If you have any fundraising events you'd like to publicise in our newsletter – please let us know and we'll try to feature them and get you some extra publicity.*

# Morning after drink drive warning

As Christmas party season approaches, make sure you have a robust drug and drink policy in place before the festive season gets underway



Companies that already have a policy should re-mind their drivers of the risks of drink-driving and of the rising number of morning-after convictions.

Every year 90,000 motorists are convicted of driving with excess alcohol in their blood. The Police have become increasingly vigilant in "morning after" campaigns, stopping motorists on their way to work – and catching a greater and greater number every year

Of course, just getting your drivers to agree to a company policy on not drinking and driving does not guarantee compliance.

It's all very well saying 'don't drink-drive' – but drivers need to know they should be alcohol-free the next day in order to be safe to drive.

Extended licensing hours have pushed drinking later into the night and early hours which, together with the inevitable increase in

consumption, has increased morning-after convictions.

As a result, morning-after offences continue to rise – **now almost one-in-five convictions are on the way to or at work** – often in a firm's vehicle.

In addition, recent changes in law and procedures have allowed police to carry out field impairment tests to determine whether there is evidence of impairment through drug use.

Consider finding out more about appropriate training, as these tests can be carried out by fleet managers and key HR staff, enabling them to check employees suspected of being impaired in the workplace.

If you do establish impairment, a company drugs and alcohol policy will determine what happens next.

Stay safe, be strict and keep a close eye out for potential problems this Christmas.

## Price hike fuels mileage drop

EVER INCREASING FUEL PRICES AND THEIR CONSEQUENT INFLUENCE ON BUSINESS MILEAGE LEVELS ARE CAUSING GROWING CONCERN AMONG FLEET MANAGERS

A recent survey on behalf of GE Capital demonstrated that the climb to over £1 a litre for diesel and petrol influenced company car selection to a growing extent.

90% of managers listed fuel economy as the most rapidly emerging key factor in selecting and running company cars – up 14% on last year. Nearly the same share (88%) claimed that fuel costs are noticeably affecting business mileage, a 7% increase.

Other data suggests that increased home working continues to be a factor in reducing company mileage. Environmental issues continue to focus fleet managers minds, with their importance climbing 6%. But fuel cards continued their decline in popularity, sadly restricting the amount of mileage and cost-saving data, which can be used to reduce fleets' carbon footprints.



>>>  
**SPECIAL  
OFFERS**  
>>>

Vauxhall Astra  
Hatchback  
1.6i 16V Life  
(115) 5Dr

£232<sup>PM</sup>



Mazda 6  
Hatchback 2.0  
TS 5Dr

£263<sup>PM</sup>



Toyota RAV  
4 Estate 2.0  
Vvt-i XT3 5Dr

£280<sup>PM</sup>



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# Smoke ban bites

**The application of the smoking ban in company vehicles continues to rise, with 98.5% adherence in September, according to the latest Government figures.**

The West Midlands was the best region, showing 99.7% compliance, with neighbouring East Midlands the worst on 93.7%. The figure for business vehicles displaying no smoking signage averaged 89.2%, ranging from the North-east at 97.6% to London's 60.6%.

In the first three months after the smoking ban's introduction, figures showed that 798 written warnings had been handed out, with five businesses due in court for failing to prevent smoking in either their premises or vehicles. Over 5,000 firms were given written warnings for not displaying correct signage in either a vehicle or premises and 17 fixed penalty notices were issued with two cases of court proceedings pending.



# Company car tax changes more likely

**The likelihood that the chancellor will amend company car tax in the 2008 Budget has edged closer to reality.**



Professor Julia King, the influential chair of the King review, indicated that her forthcoming policy advisory report will recommend that the tax should be changed to further incentivise the adoption of efficient vehicle technology.

The second part of the King Review will be used by the Chancellor to form policy decisions aimed at cutting CO2 emissions from transport in the Budget.

**"We must give the right economic signals and encouragement."** Prof King told Fleet News. **"We need to give a strong signal to fleet participants to go for low CO2 technology."**

She said getting the fleet industry to adopt low-carbon vehicles is critical in order to achieve the rapid introduction of these cleaner

vehicles into the national parc – something that is essential if the Government's target of a 60% reduction in CO2 emissions is to be achieved by 2050.

**"Fifty-five per cent of new cars go into fleet industry so a policy that encourages fleets to acquire more low-carbon vehicles will accelerate the pull through of new technology."**

However, she advised that her recommendations would not be all about incentivising. **"I believe in a carrot and stick approach."**  
*Fleet news*

# Car still the number one choice for business travellers

The majority of business travellers rely on the car, despite 86% of them complaining that road congestion detrimentally affects their business. "The average business traveller wastes 11 days a year stuck in congestion," said a report by the RAC and Chambers of Commerce. Despite this, company drivers are travelling 20% further on business than 13 years ago. The report also found that 70%

of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) said public transport, in its present form, is not fit for purpose. Yet, one in five businesses have taken steps to increase their use of public transport. Trains were considered a viable option, but improvements, especially to the whole journey experience are required. In addition, over a half of all SMEs have opted to carry out more

**The car remains the number one choice for UK business travellers who describe public transport as "not fit for purpose".**

business over the virtual super-highway than take to nation's congested roads. According to the RAC, IT solutions are preferred by many employees to car-sharing and public transport as the best way to cut business miles. It found that while 50% on SMEs use telephone conferencing, just 19% have adopted car-sharing and just 4% use car-pooling. Elizabeth Dainton, RAC research



development manager, said, "greening a business is often thought to be at odds with providing a business benefit, but our research demonstrates that technology solutions can help SMEs realise both the environmental and business benefits of the virtual super-highway."  
*Fleet News*

The Days Contract Hire Team would like to thank all of our customers for their continued business in 2007 and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



## Next Issue:

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE OUT IN THE SPRING AND ALONG WITH THE USUAL SPECIAL OFFERS WILL CONTAIN MORE ARTICLES OF TOPICAL INTEREST.

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We regularly update our courtesy car fleet, with brand new cars, when we do, our low mileage, dealer serviced cars have to be sold to cover their running costs.

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## Road Test

### TOYOTA PRIUS HYBRID T3

Driving Toyota's Congestion Charge beater is more than slightly different to a conventional car.

Although very comfortable and well equipped it certainly took a while to feel confident with the controls, being very manoeuvrable, it was at home in town traffic.

Front and rear leg room was very spacious but it had very limited luggage space. The facia layout was certainly different to a conventional car with a large screen showing which source, either the engine or battery, is powering the vehicle.

However the whole idea of the vehicle is very good for the town driver, its combined fuel consumption boasts just over 60 mpg, and we certainly achieved over 50 mpg around town. However, its motorway performance when comparing it to a 1.8Tdc vehicle was not impressive and the average fuel consumption fell to the low 40's.

The technology used in the hybrid vehicle is continually improving and with today's green issues the car will impress those concerned. With its CO2 rating of 102 and road fund license of £15.00 per year, plus being free of the Congestion Charge it is bound to create interest. It's certainly worth a closer look on the Toyota website.

With a P11D of £17,712 and on a 3/35 rental profile at 60,000 contract miles of £310.00 per month it cannot be bad!

