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Chancellor fires warning shot at diesel drivers - RAC statement following Spring Budget 2017

RAC chief engineer David Bizley said: “The Chancellor has fired a warning shot at diesel owners and drivers, [with the suggestion in the Budget document that a new tax regime covering diesel vehicles could be announced before the end of the year](#).* This uncertainty is bound to be of concern to private and business motorists alike, who will be wanting urgent clarity on just what the Government plan to do. The RAC will take a leading role in representing motorists when the consultation goes live.

“We welcome more funds to tackle urban congestion – not least because congestion goes hand-in-hand with poor air quality, so tackling one can help the other. However, we’ll need to look carefully at how councils will be expected to bid for money. What we certainly don’t want to see is a situation where local authorities have to take part in an expensive, protracted process simply to have the funds they need to sort out well known bottlenecks on our town and city centre roads.

“We’re disappointed however that more funding wasn’t announced on preventative road maintenance – this is a missed opportunity given the dire state of many local roads. The RAC Pothole Index showed that the number of pothole-related breakdowns has doubled in the last ten years, and remain a constant source of frustration for motorists.”

* *See section 6.4 of the main Budget document*

Notes to Editors

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

ISDN radio studio facilities are available for interviews Monday to Friday.

About the RAC

The RAC provides complete peace of mind to 12m UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. Its services include:

- **[Breakdown assistance](#)**. Its highly-skilled, 1,600-strong branded patrol workforce attends more than two million breakdowns every year, fixing on average four out of five vehicles at the roadside. The RAC’s patrol fleet is one of the most advanced in the UK, and was the first to roll out both an [All-Wheels-Up recovery system](#), allowing the vast majority of vehicles to be recovered from a single patrol van, and [EV Boost](#) mobile electric vehicle charging units
- **[Insurance](#)**. The RAC is a top-five [car insurance](#) broker having

surpassed the 500,000 policies-in-force milestone in 2018. It also offers [‘black box’ telematics policies](#), as well as home and travel insurance

- **Other motoring services.** The RAC leads in the development of new solutions for business, fleets, electric vehicles and future car technology. Its additional products and services include a [personal loans offering](#), a [used car buying website](#), [vehicle inspections and checks](#), [legal services](#) or up-to-the-minute [traffic and travel information](#). It also has a network of [Approved Dealers](#) and [Approved Garages](#) which combine the trust of RAC brand with local service and convenience

The RAC also works to support the interests of its members and UK drivers on the most important motoring issues which it identifies via the annual [RAC Report on Motoring](#) and the RAC Opinion Panel. The Report on Motoring is the longest running analysis of driver opinion in the UK having been published every year since 1989.

For more information about the RAC, visit the [RAC website](#).