RAC
Media Centre

Nov 26, 2015 10:50 GMT

RAC reacts to new official data showing number of untaxed vehicles has more than doubled since 2013

RAC chief engineer David Bizley said: “These are very worrying and disappointing statistics indeed. Sadly, the concerns we raised about the number of car tax evaders going up at the time the tax disc was confined to history have become a reality.

“Prior to the new system going live last October the RAC made the point that enforcement would principally be carried out by automatic number plate recognition cameras as is the case with motor insurance where the exact

number of evaders is not fully known, although the figure is thought to be over one million.

“The number of untaxed vehicles in Great Britain has more than doubled from 230,000 in 2013 to 531,000 in the latest statistics and is now at its highest level for eight years. The loss in revenue for the Government is significant having risen from £35m in 2013 to an estimated £80m now and, it has to be pointed out, far exceeds the forecast £10m efficiency saving.

“We really cannot afford for this to increase again for the sake of both road safety and the country’s finances. Hopefully, much of the increase in evasion is due to the system being new and these figures will reduce as motorists become more familiar with how it works.

“The RAC believes it is vital that this survey is repeated in 12 months’ time – if not sooner – rather than in the normal two-year period so we can establish once and for all whether the increase is simply a temporary result of the new system. If, however, evasion continues to increase, then action will have to be taken swiftly.”

The press office email address is press.office@rac.co.uk and media centre is at media.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.

About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC’s

breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and can be called on using myRAC – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the RAC website.

Contacts

Press office team
Press Contact
For journalist enquiries only
Emails monitored during normal office hours
press.office@rac.co.uk
ISDN number on request