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Vehicles off the road costing small firms £500 a day

RAC Business launches 'van for van' replacement service to keep firms on the move

RAC Business has launched a new feature as part of its Onward Travel cover, as research* reveals the cost of a vehicle being off the road is up to £500 a day for one in three small businesses.

In response to customer feedback the new feature will ensure a customer's broken down van will be temporarily replaced with another van, if it is not

possible to fix the original vehicle at the roadside.

The enhanced Onward Travel service means that wherever the van is, the driver will be able to transfer their load to the van replacement and carry on their journey, while their vehicle is repaired in an [RAC approved garage](#).

The van for van replacement service is one of a number of new features now available a year after RAC Business Club was first launched, which currently has more than 8,500 members from across the UK SME sector. For a limited period** only there is 50% off Onward Travel when you buy RAC Business Breakdown cover.

RAC Business spokesman Mike Fogden said: “Businesses need to keep on the move and the new change we have made to our Onward Travel cover means they are able to transfer their load into a van replacement, and carry on to their job or make their delivery.

“We have seen the number of vans on our roads increase significantly in recent months, which is a good sign that businesses are getting busier. In April, according to the Department for Transport, new van registrations increased for the 12th consecutive month to 24,927 - up 20.9% for the year-to-date.

“The number of vans, has continued to rise at a higher rate than any other vehicle type, with around 3.5million currently on our roads***, doing the job of keeping the British economy on the move.”

Research carried out by the RAC during Q1 2015 suggests small firms are losing thousands of pounds a year unnecessarily, as trade is being lost when vehicles are sitting idle waiting for repair.

With the average small business running six to seven vehicles just one day off the road a year, per vehicle, could cost up to £3,500. But the cost could be even higher for a significant number of firms as 33% of those in the survey said they did not even know the financial impact on their business.

Mr Fogden added: “Obviously for the vast majority of small firms vehicles are an essential part of their operation and contribute to the income generation of the business, and we have seen an increasing use of vans and commercial

vehicles in those businesses.

“We surveyed 1,000 small to medium-sized firms across the UK and a third of those that knew how much a vehicle off the road cost them, said it was up to £500 a day, and 41% said they were losing £250 a day.

“This clearly demonstrates that being out of action due to breakdown can have a significant impact on the cash flow of a business which is why we are launching this new feature to help keep their business on the move.

“Over the past year we have seen thousands of small and medium sized businesses signing up for free to become members of the RAC Business Club. During that time we’ve been adapting and developing new services in response to what they say makes running their businesses easier, from a vehicle management point of view.

“This is where we can bring our expertise and experience in motoring services, allowing business owners to focus on what they do best, which is running their business.”

Another useful feature included with Business Club is Fleet Assistant, which brings a number of existing services and functions into one, easy-to-manage process.

Members can now use the Fleet Assistant to set up reminder alerts for servicing and MOTs as well as ordering parts such as replacement windscreens and tyres, and to find out information about meeting Duty of Care commitments.

For more information, go to: www.rac.co.uk/business/sme/business-club

*Research carried out by One Poll on behalf of RAC Business, among 1,000 small to medium sized businesses, during January 2015.

**Terms and conditions for 50% off Onward Travel

1. The offer is for 50% off RAC Onward Travel Cover for the first 12 months of cover purchased on an annual basis.

2. Only valid to new & existing customers who buy or who have bought RAC Business Breakdown cover.
3. Existing Onward Travel customers are excluded unless eligible for renewal.
4. Valid for cars and vans (less than 3.5 tonnes) only.
5. Valid for a fleet size of 1-99 vehicles.
6. Valid until 30/06/2015 and available on quotes given before 30/06/2015 and purchased within 30 days of the quote received date.
7. The offer price is based on the advertised web price of RAC Onward Travel Cover for cars and vans (£20)
8. No cash or other alternatives available.
9. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and may be withdrawn at any time

***Table VEH0402 Department for Transport vehicle licensing report:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/veh04-licensed-light-goods-vehicles>

About the RAC

First formed in 1897, the RAC has been looking after the needs of its members and championing the interests of drivers for more than 120 years.

Today it has more than eight million members and is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's [roadside assistance](#), [insurance](#), [buying a used car](#), [vehicle inspections and checks](#), [legal services](#) or up-to-the-minute [traffic and travel information](#) – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK drivers at a national level. This includes voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring, particularly the price of fuel and the high level of tax levied on it, advancing levels of road safety, and supporting the needs of all drivers, from young to old.

The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – is one of a

kind and provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#). It provides a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump - and tracks these prices daily to help drivers check if the price they pay to fill up is a fair one.

Contacts



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