



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Fair Fuel UK Campaign and the Autumn Budget

Thank you for contacting me about Fair Fuel UK's campaign ahead of the 2017 Autumn Budget.

The Government remains fully committed to supporting millions of hardworking people across the country. I welcome the fact that, as part of meeting that commitment, the fuel duty rise has been cancelled for the seventh successive year. This represents a tax cut worth upwards of £1 billion in 2017-18 and is the longest freeze for 40 years. In total, the average car driver saves £130 a year compared to pre-2010 fuel duty escalator plans, and the average van driver saves £350.

The Competition and Markets Authority, the body charged with monitoring competition within UK markets, investigated the fuel retail market in 2013 in order to determine whether there was anti-competitive behaviour by market participants. It found no evidence that retailers are colluding to fix pump prices.

In order to help tackle air pollution, Ministers have said that they do not expect today's conventional petrol and diesel engines to be available for sale by 2040. I note that several major car manufacturers are now offering scrappage schemes for diesel cars.

The Department for Transport is working hard to improve the UK's road network. The Government is mid-way through the first five-year £15 billion Road Investment Strategy for the 'strategic road network' (SRN). This vital strategy includes a long-term programme for our national motorways and major roads together with the stable funding needed to plan ahead. The planning for the period beyond 2020 is currently underway.

I also welcome the Government's new 'Major Road Network' under which main local roads, currently overseen by local authorities, will benefit from funding from the new Vehicle Excise Duty-funded National Roads Fund, which was previously intended to be ring fenced for national routes.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP