

Removing blockages to growth

The government says it wants to promote growth. Growth is one of the Prime Minister's five aims. The latest budget confirming high tax rises on business will not help pursue this aim. I will write a series of pieces over the weeks ahead containing proposals for regulatory and tax change that could assist growth.

The car industry is under pressure from the wish of the government to ban the sales of new diesel and petrol cars from 2030. This is a bad idea which will mean premature closure of petrol and diesel car and van making facilities here, with more car companies taking their investment into diesel, petrol and hybrid elsewhere where there is no such time limit on the sales of the products. This ban should be lifted.

The government thinks an early ban will deliver more investment in all electric vehicles. This is proving difficult to land, with the car industry wanting to see established battery making lines here first whilst those considering battery investment want orders from car companies to make their big investment worthwhile.

They all need more evidence of the wish of many consumers to trade in old diesels and petrol vehicles for all battery models. I continue to meet many people who think the current electric cars have too short a range, are difficult to recharge and too expensive. Our generating and grid capacity is not up to most of us switching to electric vehicles.

The government needs to work with the industry to see what improvements can be made in the electric offerings to make them more attractive to more people. They need a more realistic timetable for expanding the grid and reliable power generation to service more electric cars. A 2030 ban is a very bad idea.

My supplementary question on the Powering Up Britain debate

John Redwood (Wokingham) (Con)

Who will pay for CCS as it does not generate any direct revenue from retail customers?

Graham Stuart (Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero)

To decarbonise industry, we will need CCS and hydrogen. We are socialising the funding requirements across the piece to ensure that we deliver what is necessary to meet our carbon targets, at the lowest possible cost to

consumers. This year we are also consulting on measures to prevent carbon leakage, ensure that we do not drive UK industry abroad, which I know my right hon. Friend is concerned about, and instead maintain our competitiveness as we move towards net zero.

[My supplementary question on the State Pension Age: Review debate](#)

John Redwood (Wokingham) (Con)

What would be the saving were the Government to raise the age by one year to 68?

Mel Stride (Minister of State for Pensions)

That is a beautiful question because it is precise; it requires an answer that one cannot duck. I will write to my right hon. Friend with that information.

[Written answers – uptake of electric cars by Govt. departments](#)

The Department for Transport has provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (174163):

Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to promote the uptake of electric cars by Government departments.. (174163)

Tabled on: 27 March 2023

Answer:

Jesse Norman:

Decarbonising road transport is critical to delivering the UK's net zero ambitions and the Government has an important leadership role to play in driving this transition.

As of September 2022, over 25% of the cars and vans in the central government fleet were ultra-low emission vehicles, delivering this target well ahead of the Government's December 2022 deadline. The Government is now going even further and has committed to its car and van fleet being fully zero emission

at the tailpipe by 31 December 2027. Departmental officials are working with colleagues from the Crown Commercial Service and Energy Saving Trust to provide other government departments with advice and guidance to support them to deliver this commitment.

The answer was submitted on 31 Mar 2023 at 10:36.

[UK trade and investment – exports](#)

In the last year Brexit Britain's exports soared by 24%

Rejoiners who want to put our country down may wail, but the facts are the facts.

CIBUK Article :

<https://cibuk.org/in-the-last-year-brexit-britains-exports-soared-by-24-percent/>

CIBUK Twitter : <https://twitter.com/CibukOrg/status/1642073673216532483>

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Facts4EU Article::: https://facts4eu.org/news/2023_apr_big_brexit_win_3

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Great news that last year UK trade surged and inward investment reached a new record. The BBC and the Remain campaigners push out errant forecasts and strange models to suggest post Brexit the UK will do badly, ignoring the reality of trade and overseas investment rising. Why do they always want to run the UK down? Why do they play down the significance of so much investment coming from outside the EU despite their dogma that our trade and prosperity depend on the EU? The USA is by far and away our biggest export market and we are doing well there. Services are particularly strong. Now we are out of the EU we are negotiating trade deals like the TPP one which include services, something the EU did not include in most of their deals.