

Torque

the Motor Industry Newsletter - November 2009

Welcome to Torque, the monthly newsletter from the IMI for Motor Industry employers.

As the professional association and Sector Skills Council for the automotive retail industry we would like to keep you up to date with news, views and information from our sector.

If you have any comments, or if you know anyone who may like to receive this newsletter, please email marianne@motor.org.uk. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

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IMI relicensed as the Sector Skills Council for the automotive retail sector

The IMI has received widespread industry support on its relicensing as the Sector Skills Council for the automotive retail sector.

The announcement followed an independent performance review carried out by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) as part of the relicensing process for all 25 sector skills councils.

As part of the relicensing assessment process, the IMI had to submit evidence to the NAO on how it had helped raise skill levels in the sector, was visited by the Commission and were also subject to panel interviews. As a result of this, the IMI achieved an overall score of 'good' although was rated as 'outstanding' in two of the four key themes assessed by the NAO.

The IMI was assessed as being an extremely good organisation that had made outstanding progress in a very short space of time since it took over the SSC licence. Evidence from the NAO report pointed to several key areas where they felt the IMI was particularly strong, these included:

- the development of innovative products including ATA, Autocity and Headlight and coalescing support from employers for these

and

- the substantial progress achieved by the IMI since taking over the licence 18 months ago in rebuilding the credibility of the SSC with employers.

[Click here for the full press release](#)

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Latest Quarterly Industry Update

The quarterly industry update report aims to give an up to date view of the sector analysing employment and vehicle sales figures amongst other key performance indicators.

The automotive sector is showing some signs of recovery which has given cause for some cautious optimism around the industry at this time. In September new car registrations were up 11.4% on the same month a year previously, this followed rises of 6% in August and 2.4% in July. In terms of the workforce, redundancies were down almost a third on the same quarter a year ago (31%) reversing the increases of the previous year on year changes.

Read the latest reports by [clicking here](#)

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Training and Funding Support - East of England

'Beyond 2010' is a new initiative assisting small to medium-sized businesses in the East of England to give their staff new skills to move business forward.

The project works alongside Train to Gain to ensure that businesses can get the skills training that they need.

Businesses employing up to 250 staff can contact specialist sector advisors who are able to discuss training needs in detail and agree with the business which training course will best meet their needs. Beyond 2010 can provide up to 50% of the cost of training from the East of England Development Agency and the European Social Fund.

[For more information click here](#)

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European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

UK Nations' Employer Skills Surveys

Prior to the launch of our own automotive employer skills survey, separate research of each of the UK nations' own skills surveys was completed. This report summarises these surveys from an automotive retail sector point of view. The research found that skills shortages and skills gaps in the sector are broadly in line with the UK economy.



[Read the latest Employer Skills Surveys here](#)

The IMI's own automotive employer skills survey will be published shortly.

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The Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF)

The QCF is a new framework for recognising and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is at the heart of a major reform of the vocational qualifications system designed to make it simpler to understand and use, with the intention to make both the system and the qualifications offered far more relevant to the needs of employers and more flexible and accessible for learners.

The IMI will be running a number of free seminars across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in February and March 2010 designed to provide information and guidance about the new framework. Whether you're an employer or trade association looking at how to get your in-house training nationally accredited, need clarification on the new qualifications on offer to the sector, and more specifically your own businesses and staff, or whether you are an association or stakeholder involved with vocational qualifications development and provision, these informative events will be relevant to you.

If you want to find out more then please register your interest in attending one of these one-day sessions by emailing Kelly Shipp at kellysh@motor.org.uk who will provide further details including venues, dates and agenda.

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Autocity - careers advice

Autocity has been designed to give an insight into the diverse roles available in the retail motor industry and, as an online tool,



provides young people, adults and careers practitioners with valuable information about careers in our industry. It includes video case studies, using real people in real jobs, for the different job roles available.

On the Autocity website information is available regarding qualifications, comprehensive job descriptions and salary guidelines, as well as links to Awarding Bodies delivering automotive qualifications.

[To go to Autocity and our Careers area, click here ...](#)

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Skillmiles

The IMI's Skillmiles scheme awards points to individuals and businesses helping to support the Institute's work in raising skill levels, including financial as well as 'in kind' contributions, such as a person's time. A tiered points system ensures that contributions are weighted fairly with four levels of recognition - bronze, silver, gold and platinum.



Through the scheme, the IMI is able to show the Government that employers and individuals in the automotive retail industry are making valuable contributions to skills development, which has not been recognised previously on an industry-wide scale.

The Skillmiles web-site shows a list of those signed up and the level they have attained so far.

[To read more and register on the scheme, click here ...](#)

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Latest Motor Industry News

BMW becomes Olympic automotive partner

BMW has been confirmed as an official automotive partner of both the London 2012 Olympics and the Paralympic Games...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

Welsh road safety boosted by FTA

The Freight Transport Association's (FTA) recommendation of boosting overnight parking facilities for lorry drivers in Wales has been accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

Hybrid refuse truck tested by Volvo

A new hybrid refuse truck is being tested by Volvo in London...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

[For more of the latest Motor Industry News click here ...](#)

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Regards

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