

Industry Updates

- **Hand-held mobile phone penalties** - The fixed penalty for hand-held mobile phone use will rise to £200 from £100 and penalty points will increase to six from three for all road uses. Legislation will be introduced soon.
- **Learner drivers to be allowed on motorways** - the government plan to allow learner drivers to take lessons on motorways prior to passing their test, if they are accompanied by an approved driving instructor in a dual control vehicle. You can read more about these proposals and respond to the consultation [here](#).
- **Severn Crossing tolls have increased for 2017** – small goods vehicles and small buses will rise from £13.20 to £13.40 and HGVs and buses will rise by 20p from £19.80 to £20.00
- **Drivers with sleep apnoea urged to speak up** - the RAC and RHA have called for a faster medical response to sleep apnoea to encourage more drivers to come forward who have the condition after new research has found it can be more of an impairment than having too much to drink.
- **Tax-free overnight allowance** - From April 2017 in order to pay an overnight allowance for drivers tax free (up to the limit of £26.20) you will be required to get an approval notice from HMRC. For more information please contact the RHA.
- **Government action on overnight parking** - The Minister for Freight, John Hayes MP has committed to developing a National Plan for good and sufficient overnight lorry parking.
- **Increased crackdown on drivers hours** - The DVSA is increasing its ability to detect and penalise driver hour offences by using new software at roadside checks and regulations will be amended to allow for up to three fixed penalties to be issued for historic offences in the previous 28 days.
- **Terrorism Hotline** - Following recent terror events in Berlin involving a hijacked HGV lorry, if you or any of your drivers notice anything suspicious they can report it to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2017 and look forward to seeing many of you at our events over the coming year.

Best wishes

Philip Campbell, Policy Advisor, REC Drivers