

London, 16th September 2019

Mobility white paper reveals potential duty of care crisis facing businesses as 'cash for cars' schemes mean more firms are relying on grey fleet

Launched to coincide with European Mobility Week (16-19 September 2019), the latest insight paper from Europcar Mobility Group UK - *'Is the evolving mobility agenda supporting businesses today'* - reveals an ongoing reliance on grey fleet vehicles amongst UK businesses. Figures suggest a growing duty of care crisis if UK firms don't take steps to regain control of the safety and efficiency of their fleets, by utilising the latest staff mobility solutions.

As more firms move to 'cash for cars' options, prompted by Benefit in Kind tax changes, people responsible for employee mobility have less control of the vehicles being used for business travel. And for those businesses that want to retain fleet they can control, there are big questions around long-term finance agreements, as economic uncertainty continues.

Research¹ of decision makers responsible for business travel in UK firms found that nearly half (49%) of those surveyed said they provide employees with a company car or van. But nearly a third expect their employees to use their own vehicles for business travel. The research shows that grey fleet usage is common in bigger companies with over 500 employees, with 49% relying on these types of vehicles. A significant 28% of companies with 10-25 employees also let staff use their own vehicles for business travel.

In particular, the research suggests that the changing rules surrounding Benefit in Kind tax are impacting the control employers have over the mobility solutions their employees use. Nearly a third of businesses said that up to 25% of staff have opted for 'cash for car', with 26-50% of the workforce choosing this option for nearly a quarter of companies (23%).

“The high usage of grey fleet vehicles underlines the importance of monitoring employee travel”, said Gary Smith, Managing Director, Europcar Mobility Group UK. “Yet worryingly, nearly 1 in 5 respondents said they don’t monitor employee travel at all. Only 45% of businesses monitor fuel expenses and this only rises to 56% for businesses with over 500 employees.



“The real concern is that the majority of the smallest companies don’t monitor employee travel at all. Combined with firms using less than accurate methods, such as self-reporting, this means employers could be failing on their duty of care to drivers.”

The average grey fleet vehicle is older than a company car, which means they are more polluting, which comes into conflict with the government's own emissions targets. They are also more prone to breakdowns, creating a major drain on a business's resources. In addition, without an easy way to collect data, employers can't know whether a vehicle has a valid MOT, tax, insurance or when it was last serviced, raising safety concerns.

The Europcar Mobility Group UK white paper also identifies that businesses are having to adopt new thinking to meet expectations for reduced pollution and congestion. With this in mind, rental remains a useful resource for over quarter of businesses, rising to 42% among bigger businesses. Other mobility options include car share or car clubs (22%), taxis (20%) and public transport (22%).

“It is clear we are at a turning point in the challenges faced by businesses to keep employees on the road – firms not only need to consider their duty of care responsibilities but the growing government pressure to reduce emissions”, added Gary Smith. “There are, however, solutions that employers can access, working in partnership with businesses like Europcar Mobility Group UK.”

Attached FOR MEDIA USE ONLY: *Is the evolving mobility agenda supporting businesses today?*

To download a copy of the white paper 'Is the evolving mobility agenda supporting businesses today?' visit <https://www.europcar.co.uk/mobility-whitepaper>

Ends

For further press information please contact the Europcar Mobility Group UK Press Office:
Lucy Wright, Nikki Weaver or Wendy Harrison
020 8977 9132
europcarmobilitygroupUK_PR@harrisonsadler.com

About Europcar Mobility Group



Europcar Mobility Group is a major player in mobility markets and listed on Euronext Paris. The mission of Europcar Mobility Group is to be the preferred “Mobility Service Company” by offering alternative attractive solutions to vehicle ownership, with a wide range of mobility-related services: cars rental, vans and trucks rental, chauffeur services, car sharing, scooter sharing and peer-to-peer car sharing.

Customers’ satisfaction is at the heart of the Group’s mission and all of its employees and this commitment fuels the continuous development of new services.

Europcar Mobility Group operates through multi brands meeting every customer specific needs; its 4 major brands being: Europcar® - the European leader in vehicles rental services, Goldcar® - the most important low-cost car rental company in Europe, InterRent® – a ‘mid-tier’ brand focused on leisure and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders in car sharing for both businesses and end-customers market.

Europcar Mobility Group delivers its mobility solutions worldwide solutions through an extensive network in 140 countries (including 18 wholly owned subsidiaries in Europe, 2 in Australia and New Zealand, franchises and partners).

Further details on our website:

www.europcar-mobility-group.com

About Europcar Mobility Group UK

Europcar Mobility Group brands in the UK encompass:

Europcar – European leader of cars rental, vans and trucks rental

Goldcar – Low-cost car rental leader in Europe

InterRent – Mid-tier car rental specialist (leisure-focused)

Ubeeqo – One of European leaders in car-sharing (round trip, B2B & B2C)

E-car Club – UK based electric pay-per-use car club

Brunel – a London based chauffeur-services company

More than 2,300 people work for Europcar Mobility Group UK and it has a combined fleet across all brands of over 45,000 vehicles.

ⁱ Research of decision makers responsible for business travel in 300 UK businesses – conducted by Censuswide, April 2019