

September 2020 – UK

## **Light commercial vehicles keep the heart of UK business beating as over half of firms report using use their vans every day**

### **New Europcar Mobility Group UK whitepaper gives fleet managers valuable insight into operational challenges**

A new white paper released by Europcar Vans & Trucks, a brand of Europcar Mobility Group UK, underlines the huge significance of light commercial vehicles for UK businesses. The research conducted amongst UK businesses before COVID-19 took hold, found that more than 58% of UK businesses use their vans every day of the week, with another 23% using them for between 4 and six days per week. But that dependence also requires high levels of flexibility, as the Europcar data revealed.

As UK businesses contend with a more unsettled economic landscape, the need for flexibility when it comes to accessing vehicles makes commercial sense – freeing up cash that would otherwise have been tied up in an outright purchase. Indeed, the Europcar research identified the evolving trend towards ‘usership’ rather than ‘ownership’. Over a quarter of businesses said they favour long-term rental as a method of accessing commercial vehicles and vehicle ‘usership’, rather than ownership is the preferred option for almost 20% who use short term rental solutions.

The Europcar research also identified some of the biggest headaches for commercial fleet managers. After road congestion, next on the list of concerns was vehicle condition, with 42% citing it as their second biggest worry. As fleet managers juggle multiple vehicles, driven by many different drivers, the availability of vehicles was an issue for 40% of the decision makers questioned, with nearly three quarters (71%) admitting to having ‘spare’ vans in order to mitigate the risk of being left without a vehicle. And the bigger the firm, the more likely they were to have ‘just in case’ vehicles: 92% of companies with 500+ employees.

Commenting on the research findings, published in the new white paper Stuart Russell, LCV Sales Director at Europcar Vans & Trucks said: “We all know that the last few months have been particularly challenging for companies – whether that has meant a reduction in business or having to gear up quickly to meet rapidly increasing demand. That’s why flexibility and the need to minimise long-term financial commitments are going to be the cornerstones for businesses that want to remain competitive in what will undoubtedly be uncertain months ahead.

“For fleet managers, being able to call on reliable and appropriate commercial vehicles as and when they are needed will be key. And as a flexible supply partner, Europcar Vans & Trucks can help businesses stay in control of their costs. Long-term rental goes some way to answering the challenges they face by offering a cost effective, ‘pick up and put down’ solution of up-to-date, well maintained and low emission vehicles, which will allow fleet managers to sleep more peacefully at night.”

Over 300 business decision makers who have or use vans took part in the research in 2019, which aimed to understand the challenges faced by UK businesses when it comes to managing their commercial vehicle requirements.

To download the whitepaper visit [www.europcar.co.uk/business/van-and-truck-rental](http://www.europcar.co.uk/business/van-and-truck-rental)

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## **Contacts**

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## **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 attractive alternatives to vehicle ownership, with a wide range of mobility-related services and solutions: car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, chauffeur services, car-sharing, scooter-sharing and private hire vehicle (PHV – rental to “Uber like” chauffeurs).

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 a diversified portfolio of brands meeting every customer specific needs and use cases, be it for 1 hour, 1 day, 1 week or longer ; its 4 major brands being: Europcar® - the European leader of car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - the low-cost car-rental Leader in Europe, InterRent® – ‘mid-tier’ car rental and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders of round-trip car-sharing (BtoB, BtoC).

Europcar Mobility Group delivers its mobility solutions worldwide solutions through an extensive network in over 140 countries (including wholly owned subsidiaries – 18 in Europe, 1 in the USA, 2 in Australia and New Zealand – completed by franchises and partners).

Released on 3rd May 2020:

The €307m additional financing facilities has been secured via:

- € 220m new term loan, 90% guaranteed by the French State.
- € 67m new financing facilities, 70% guaranteed by the Spanish State;
- € 20m Incremental RCF, guaranteed by Eurazeo through a risk sub-participation.

Further details available at: [www.europcar-mobility-group.com](http://www.europcar-mobility-group.com)