

## MPs call for government to abandon January fuel rise

Written by Karl  
Friday, 15 July 2011 11:30 -

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A group of MPs have today (12 July) urged the government to abandon the fuel duty rise in January and also initiate an inquiry into why pump prices appear not to fall in line with falling oil prices.

Supporting the FairFuelUK campaign, the MPs pushed a FairFuelUK branded car along Whitehall this morning as a publicity stunt to kick-start phase two of the campaign.

The group then handed a letter into Number 10 stating their demands and explaining that they had formed a fair fuel All Party Parliamentary Group, with 22 members signed up to date.

Tory MP Robert Halfon, who is spearheading the group, tells Roadtransport.com that his intention is to become 'Mr FairFuel MP' in the House of Commons

"Motorists and hauliers are being crucified by high fuel costs so I'm leading on this issue to urge the government not to increase fuel taxes next January and also to put pressure on the oil companies to pass down lower fuel costs to the motorist," says Halfon.

Backed by the Freight Transport Association (FTA) and the Road Haulage Association (RHA), FairFuelUK has over 170,000 signatures to date on its petition but is looking to reach the 1 million mark by the Autumn.

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FTA chief executive Theo de Pencier says: “Both the general motorist and road transport businesses should be united behind what FairfuelUK is doing.

“A lot of FTA members run large car and van fleets which you tend to forget about when you're concentrating on the trucks. But there's 3 million vans on the road, and however many business-users of cars, so this is a real issue. Fuel price hikes do not just hit the trucks, although that's obviously where it hurts the most for our members.”

Kate Gibbs, head of communications at the RHA, adds: “We have got to keep up the momentum because we cannot see any further increase in fuel duty. There will be more FairFuelUK events planned as we have to keep this at the forefront of the political agenda. There is another increase planned for January so we have to keep up the momentum and make sure we get another freeze.”