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RECOGNISED AS THE VOICE OF FLEET.

ACFO IS DEDICATED TO REPRESENTING FLEET DECISION MAKERS. HELPING THEM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR FLEETS.

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**ACFO membership provides access to a wealth of expert knowledge and advice together with news on the latest developments and technologies.**



**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP ALSO INCLUDE:**

- Free to attend national seminars covering topical fleet issues
- Weekly News Feed
- Advance consultation on new legislation and government initiatives
- Representing members' views in regular dialogue with government departments and officials
- Dynamic, informative and interactive members' website
- Annual awards to class-leading fleet industry suppliers

ACFO continues to be the 'go to' voice of fleet for the DVLA and increasingly so for the HMRC. You can find the ACFO review of 2016, our dialogues with government bodies, events and initiatives overleaf.

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## 2016 was a packed year for ACFO and 2017 has proved to be every bit as busy for the UK's premier fleet decision-makers' organisation, here are the highlights:

**SPRING SEMINAR - 'A VAN FOR ALL REASONS':** LCVs were to the fore at the annual spring seminar where a wide range of expert speakers focused on the requirement for fleet operators to turn their attention on compliance and improving safety amid fears that if managers did not put their own house in order tougher enforcement would follow to tackle growing concerns over the number of unroadworthy vehicles being operated.

**COMPANY CAR IN ACTION DEBATE - 'ANOTHER FINE MESS?':** The inefficient and cumbersome process for administering parking fines on private land continues to be a nightmare for many ACFO members. Two years after ACFO first tackled the issue, speakers called on the government to take action to encourage radical modernisation of the outdated paper-based system.

**MOU TO OVERCOME PARKING FINES ON PRIVATE LAND:** ACFO announced that it planned to publish a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help educate members and their company car and van drivers to avoid parking fines on private land. This followed a 'summit meeting' between ACFO, the British Parking Association and one of UK's major enforcement companies, Parking Eye. The document will be published in 2017.

**MEETINGS WITH HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS (HMRC):** ACFO continues to lobby HMRC on a variety of key issues and chief among those in 2016 was a requirement for the publication of Advisory Fuel Rates (AFRs) for plug-in vehicles in addition to those already produced quarterly for petrol, diesel and LPG fuelled company cars (hybrid cars are treated as either petrol or diesel). Those discussions will continue in 2017.

**MEETINGS WITH DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY (DVLA):** ACFO retains membership on a number of DVLA committees and working groups and, as such, continues to provide valuable insight into the views and requirements of fleet operators. During the last 12 months, ACFO helped the DVLA publicise April 2017 changes to Vehicle Excise Duty as well as raising awareness of all issues around medication and its impact on the ability to drive.

**MEETINGS WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND:** Fleet managers have complained of a huge increase in administration following introduction in late 2014 of the "free flow" Dartford Crossing charging scheme. ACFO has held face-to-face meetings, with Highways England officials, which oversees Dart Charge on behalf of the government. What's more Highways England made it very clear that it was prepared to engage in conversation with ACFO and was happy to have direct contact with individual members if they were finding it difficult to resolve issues with the operator. Having taken on board many concerns raised by ACFO members, Highways England hope to introduce a number of initiatives in 2017. Watch this space....

**AUTUMN SEMINAR - 'DRIVE FOR MOBILITY':** Businesses can cut travel costs and share some of the savings with employees to drive cultural change by focusing on the 'total cost of mobility' rather than a fleet-based total of cost of vehicle ownership model. That was one of the major messages to delegates attending what was believed to be the first seminar of its type focusing on business mobility targeted at fleet decision-makers.

**RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS:** In the autumn, ACFO responded to three government consultation documents on key areas of tax policy affecting the fleet sector - company car benefit-in-kind tax treatment of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), salary sacrifice/cash allowance schemes and how new lease accounting rules will impact on the tax treatment of leased assets. The government's response to the first two was contained in November's Autumn Statement with further details published in the 2017 Finance Bill. Early in 2017, ACFO plans to publish a short paper setting out the facts and what fleets need to consider ahead of the government confirming implementation of its plans in the spring Budget.

**BEST PRACTICE GUIDE TO END-OF-CONTRACT DAMAGE CHARGES:** ACFO continues to work closely with the BVRLA and a key area of focus is vehicle end-of-contract fair wear and tear.

End-of-contract charges, are frequently highlighted as the "cause of the biggest degree of conflict" between fleets and leasing companies. The soon-to-be-published guide will provide clarity and greater understanding to fleet decision-makers and drivers and, both ACFO and the BVRLA, hope to reduce the amount of conflict.

**CLOSER LINKS WITH ICFM:** ACFO announced that it was forging a closer relationship with ICFM to promote the benefits of professional fleet management, the importance of training and implementation of best practice.

**AND FINALLY....**as ACFO's board continues its work on behalf of members in 2017 with some initiatives, as outlined above, continuing into the New Year; and spring and autumn seminars on key fleet issues being planned; ACFO has joined the new global Fleet Consortium Network. Designed to promote fleet best practice internationally, the initiative is being led by the United States-based Automotive Fleet and Leasing Association. The Network also comprises the Australasian Fleet Management Association, Asociación Mexicana de Arrendadoras de Vehículos and the China Road Transport Association with the Indian Vehicle Operating Lease Organisation set to also join.

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