



# General Election 2024 Guide



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# Introduction

With the Prime Minister setting the date for the General Election on 4th July, the IMI welcomes the opportunity to engage with every political party to ensure that the critical issues surrounding automotive vacancy rates, skills, education, and new technologies in automotive are adequately addressed by the next government.

The automotive sector is a cornerstone of the UK's economic and social infrastructure. However, this essential industry faces significant risks without correctly maintained and repaired vehicles supported by a sufficiently populated, diverse, qualified, and continuously trained workforce.

To support our members during this critical period, we have developed a comprehensive election guide that includes the following key resources:

- Election FAQs
- The IMI's General Election Wish List
- A Breakdown of the Principal Political Party Manifestos

It is crucial that our collective voice is heard to ensure the future prosperity of the UK automotive sector.

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# General Election

## 2024 FAQ's

# How to vote

To vote in the UK, follow these steps:

- **You must be registered to vote:** The deadline to register to vote closed on 18 June.
- **Check Your Polling Station:** You will receive a poll card in the post that tells you where your polling station is. You can also check this information online or contact your local council.
- **Go to the Polling Station:** On election day, go to your assigned polling station. Polling stations are open from 7 AM to 10 PM.
- **Bring ID:** You need to bring photo ID to vote. How to vote: Photo ID you'll need - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)).
- **Receive Your Ballot Paper:** At the polling station, give your name and address to the staff, and they will give you a ballot paper.
- **Mark Your Ballot:** In the voting booth, mark an 'X' next to the candidate or option you wish to vote for.
- **Submit Your Ballot:** Fold your ballot paper and place it in the ballot box. Alternatively, you can vote by post or by proxy if you cannot vote in person. You must apply for postal or proxy voting in advance by 11:59pm on 18 June 2024. More information can be found on the gov.uk website - How to vote: Overview - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

*There are different rules if you vote in Northern Ireland.*



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# FAQs

## Why should you vote?

Voting in the UK General Election is crucial because it determines the government and policies that will shape the country's future. It's a chance to have your say on issues that matter to you, hold elected officials accountable, and influence decisions that impact our lives. Your vote ensures your voice is heard in a democratic society.

## The UK's Voting system

The UK uses the "First Past the Post" (FPTP) system for General Elections. In this system, the country is divided into constituencies, each represented by a Member of Parliament (MP). Voters in each constituency cast a single vote for their preferred candidate. The candidate with the most votes in each constituency wins and becomes the MP for that area. The party with the majority of MPs in the House of Commons usually forms the government.





# General Election

## IMI's Wish List

# IMI Priorities for Government

By addressing the following needs, the next Government has the chance to ensure the continued and future success of the automotive sector:

## Education

Currently the automotive training workforce is severely under-resourced and the pipeline of new talent is not being adequately filled by new apprenticeships.

The IMI is calling for the new Government to ensure infrastructure and pathways are built to improve the level of educators/trainers in automotive, and the sector is fairly represented in the education curriculum from early years upwards.

Support is also required to ensure employers are properly motivated to recruit and retain apprentices.

## Skills

2024 has seen the skills gap in automotive widen, putting the sector – and road users - at serious risk. And with new technologies including electric and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) emerging at pace the gap is becoming more pronounced.



The IMI is calling for the new Government to provide financial support for recruitment, training and resources, particularly for the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that make up such a large proportion of the sector. It also hopes industry initiatives such as the IMI's 'There's More to Motor' campaign, that ensure that opportunities within the automotive industry are accessible to all, are properly supported.

### **Road Safety/Consumer Trust & Confidence**

The IMI is calling for the next Government to implement and oversee policies that inform consumers on the importance of using qualified/accredited technicians. It also believes it is vital that the MOT is fit for purpose for a future of ADAS equipped vehicles – as well as for all drive trains.

### **New Technologies**

Future policies introduced by the next Government should also take account of the increasing importance of data protection, privacy, and cybersecurity issues in terms of vehicle ownership and usage.

The IMI believes support for the upskilling of the sector to work on ADAS, electric vehicles and other automotive technology is critical to avoid a postcode lottery on accessibility to these important advances for social mobility.







# General Election

## Political Party

## Manifestos

# Manifesto Analysis

The following section will examine the manifestos of the 'principal political parties' across the UK including:

- The Conservative Party
- The Green Party
- The Labour Party
- The Liberal Democrat Party
- Plaid Cymru
- Reform UK
- SNP

Each of their manifestos has been evaluated across three domains:

- Education
- The automotive industry
- The economy

It is recommended to review the full manifestos for comprehensive details.

Notably, the Labour manifesto is particularly extensive, given Labour's substantial focus on the automotive industry, which is not as prominently addressed in the other manifestos. This is why their section has two pages, compared to one.

The IMI is committed to remaining an apolitical organisation. The following section is not an endorsement of any political party or their policies but is intended solely to provide relevant information to our membership community.

# Conservative Party



## Education:

- 100,000 more apprenticeships in England
- Advanced British Standard
- Bonuses for new teachers in STEM
- Close university courses in England with the worst outcomes for their students
- Deliver the Lifelong Learning Entitlement
- Expand Adult Skills programmes (skills Bootcamps)

## Automotive technology:

- £8.3b investment for potholes & resurfacing (essential for self driving and ADAS)
- Deliver the ZEV mandate
- Emphasis on Automated Vehicles Bill
- Next Road Investment Strategy
- Commitment not to introduce road pricing schemes
- Reverse ULEZ expansion in London
- Rule out top-down blanket Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and 20mph zones.
- Roll out the National Parking Platform
- No new Smart Motorways

## Economy:

- Tax cuts for workers, including abolishing main rate of self-employed NI
- No new green levies or charges
- Will not raise corporation tax
- SME business rates package
- VAT threshold review
- Maintain R&D tax reliefs
- £4.4b Advanced Manufacturing Plan, which includes automotive



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**You can find the full manifesto here:**

<https://manifesto.conservatives.com/>



## Education:

- increase school funding of £8bn
- Abolish OFSTED
- Restore HE grants
- End HE tuition fees
- £12.4bn investment in skills and training for workers to be equipped for the green economy

## Automotive technology:

- Phase out fossil fuels
- All petrol and diesel vehicles replaced by EVs within 10 years
- Rapid rollout of EV charging points
- Extensive vehicle scrappage scheme
- End sales of new petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles by 2027
- End use of petrol and diesel vehicles on the road by 2035
- Make road tax proportional to vehicle weight
- 20 miles per hour to be the default speed limit on roads in all built-up areas
- More government support for ordinary car users and small businesses to replace their vehicles as diesel and petrol engines are phased out

## Economy:

- Reform of Capital Gains Tax (CGT)
- Wealth Tax
- Removing the Upper Earnings Limit that restricts the amount of NI paid by high earners
- £2bn per year in grant funding for local authorities to help businesses decarbonise
- Increase minimum wage to £15 an hour
- A move to a four-day working week
- Equal employment rights for all workers from their first day of employment



# Labour Party



## Education:

- Reform the Growth & Skills Levy
- Focus on Independent Training Providers
- Technical Excellence Colleges
- Youth Guarantee - access to training, an apprenticeship, or support to find work for all 18- to 21-year-olds
- Teacher recruitment drive
- Young Futures Hubs for drop in mental health care
- Reform of FE & HE
- Skills England with formally work with MAC
- National Skills Task Force

## Automotive technology:

- Return to 2030 new ICE Ban
- £1.5b for automotive gigafactories
- Automotive Sector Plan
- New battery factories with priority planning permission to get spades in the ground
- Support colleges to specialise in technical skills needed to build electric vehicles
- Provide ten year funding cycles for automotive R&D, to match that given to aerospace
- Set binding targets and redirect funding to ensure reliable charging coverage in every part of the UK
- Introduce clear battery stickers on new electric vehicles giving customers real life range times
- Standardised battery health tests so customers can buy second hand electric vehicles with confidence
- Quality standards on data on charging apps to bring all the information needed together in one place
- Push government to work with European partners secure a delay on the Rules of Origin requirements



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# Labour Party continued



## Economy:

- New Industrial Strategy
- Industrial Strategy Council to be formed
- Cap of corporation tax
- Notice for tax rises
- Reform of business rates
- Reform of the British Bank
- Combine Job Centre Plus & Careers to form the National Jobs and Careers Service that is responsive to employers
- New deal for working people
- Minimum wage to become a living wage with no changes in age, all adults earning the same
- Publicly owned Utilities – Great British Energy
- Published Fiscal Plan



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**You can find the full manifesto here:**

<https://labour.org.uk/change/my-plan-for-change/>

# Liberal Democrats



## Education:

- Lifelong Skills Grants 5k-10k
- Replace Levy
- Increase apprenticeships and careers advice for young people
- industrial strategy focused on the future skills
- Increase school and college funding per pupil above the rate of inflation
- Maintenance student grants for disadvantaged and under represented groups in HE
- Review further education funding, including the option of exempting colleges from VAT

## Automotive technology:

- Increase investment in green infrastructure, including renewable energy and zero-carbon transport
- Making it cheaper and easier to switch to electric vehicles, restoring the requirement that every new car and small van sold from 2030 is zero-emission
- Cutting VAT on public charging to 5%
- Protect motorists from unfair insurance and petrol prices
- Requiring all charging points to be accessible with a bank card

## Economy:

- Invest in green infrastructure
- Properly tackle tax avoidance and evasion
- One-off windfall tax on the super-profits of oil and gas producers and traders
- Industrial strategy to incentivise businesses to invest and create jobs
- Work with the devolved administrations to develop joint policies
- Abolish business rates
- Introduce a general duty of care for the environment and human rights in business



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*You can find the full manifesto here:*  
<https://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>



## Education:

- Creating a Lifetime Learning Allowance, this would consist of a mixture of grants, loans, and a right to free provision.
- Map Skills by Sector
- Apprenticeship Living Wage
- Free travel and meals for college students
- All learners should leave school fluent in English ,Welsh, and another language.
- HE to increase recognition of short course
- 5k Personal Learning Accounts

## Automotive technology:

- Persuade people to use their cars less
- Make changes to roads to make them safer with signs, road layouts, and average speed cameras
- Support the 20mph roll out in Wales, but will review
- The manifesto does not contain the word “automotive”

## Economy:

- Development Agency for Wales
- Devolve the Crown Estate
- Increase windfall taxes
- Increase child benefit
- New funding formula to replace the Barnett Formula
- Set tax bands in Wales
- Increase high earners NI
- Introduce a Wealth Tax
- Reform business rates
- Increase Statutory Sick Pay
- Support the Universal Basic Income





## Education:

- Patriotic Curriculum
- Tax relief for Independent Education
- Scrap interest on student loans
- Focus on benefit support & training, especially for 16-34 yr olds
- Raise NI for foreign workers using this money to fund apprenticeships and training for young Brits
- Free education for military people and veterans
- Bar student dependants

## Automotive technology:

- Legislate to ban ULEZ
- Legislate to ban Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Scrap net zero
- 20 mph areas to be scrapped unless critical
- Lower fuel duty
- The manifesto does not contain the word “automotive”

## Economy:

- 25% transferable marriage tax allowance to incentivise stay at home mothers
- Lift VAT threshold to £150,000
- Abolish IR35 rules
- Lift profit threshold for corporation tax for SMEs to £100k
- Abolish Business Rates for SMEs on high streets
- Cut entrepreneurs tax to 5%
- Make it easier to hire and fire
- Reform the tax system
- Lift income tax start point to £20k per year
- Collect billions in unpaid tax
- Slash costs in government departments
- Tax relief for businesses undertaking apprenticeships





## Education:

- Free university tuition
- Removed charitable status from private schools
- Extend free school meal provision
- Free bus travel for under 22's
- No mention of apprenticeships or further education

## Automotive technology:

- Devolve road tax
- Devolve fuel duty
- Remove VAT from on street EV charging
- Ban no zero emission buses by 2025
- Low income EV car lease fund
- The manifesto does not contain the word automotive

## Economy:

- Devolve employment rights
- Protect right to strike
- Increase maternity leave
- Scrap sick pay threshold
- Windfall tax
- Cradown on tax avoidance
- Reform VAT
- Lower VAT for hospitality & tourism



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