

An Update on Autonomous Vehicles and the Transport Bill

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In the 2022 Queen's Speech, the Government announced there would be a Transport Bill for the 2022-23 session.

It was said in May 2022 that in part the Bill would legislate for the installation of more electric vehicle charging points and create a legal footing for the introduction of autonomous vehicles. This would build on existing legislation (specifically the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018) around autonomous vehicles, as well as supporting the increase of electric vehicle charging points around the country as part of the transition from petrol and diesel vehicles.

Ministers suggested the 2022–23 Bill would also legislate to regulate the use of e-scooters and establish a Road Safety Investigation Branch.

However ultimately the Bill was never presented to Parliament. We will be watching closely to see if a similar Bill is included in the King's speech on November 7th and if so, how any proposals in the Bill might impact motor manufacturers and insurers in particular as regards any minimum standards of safety for self-driving vehicles.

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