

Progress on the Automated Vehicles Bill

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The new Automated Vehicles Bill is currently making its way through the House of Lords with the next step being the Third reading which is scheduled for next Monday 19 February 2024.

The Bill represents a significant step forward in the regulation of autonomous vehicles but the widespread adoption of autonomous vehicles will also require significant investments in infrastructure. On 12 February 2024, the Chancellor commissioned a new study on automated vehicles and self-driving technologies. The National Infrastructure Commission has been asked to provide recommendations on the infrastructure policy interventions needed to ensure that automated vehicles can support sustainable economic growth, improve competitiveness and quality of life and support the climate transition to net zero carbon emissions.

The Commission has been asked to consider digital infrastructure, the potential use for private cars, taxis and private hire vehicles, the costs, benefits and risks of infrastructure requirements and sequencing and prioritisation of interventions. The study should provide a final report next year and an interim report in the summer this year.

The Bill itself has progressed through various stages in the Lords quite quickly and could become law before the general election.

The Automotive team at Browne Jacobson will continue to keep the passage of the bill under close scrutiny to provide further updates for those operating in the autonomous vehicle industry covering all the legal issues arising including those relating to liability, insurance, regulatory compliance, data protection and technology.

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