

New year, new cars?

Don't miss out on your FREE copy of Managing Your Company Cars in 9 Easy Steps.

2014 began with a sense of cautious optimism as businesses made plans to make the most of the long awaited economic recovery and hopefully build their profits along the way. During the last year, we've been giving a monthly insight into the business costs associated with running company cars or vans and providing tips on how to save money or get best value. Here's a quick rundown of some of the key areas, plus details of how to claim our free gift to round off the year...



Deciding whether to buy or lease vehicles is the first big question that every SME looking at new cars needs to consider. Interestingly, many believe that buying is more cost-effective but that's not always true. Our article on [vehicle finance](#) examined the key issues and introduced the concept of whole life costs, which is the real decider when it comes to making the best choice. This was covered in further detail when [vehicle choices](#) went under the microscope the following month. Incredibly two similar specification cars, from the same manufacturer, with the same engine size and the same monthly rental, showed a huge cost difference of £2,400. And that's just for one vehicle!

In the spring, the subject of [vans and light commercial vehicles](#) was under the spotlight and we revealed how payload is the pitfall that needs to be front of mind, not just for owner managers but for drivers too. With fines into the £1,000s it's definitely one to be aware of.

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In subsequent months we've lifted the lid on a whole host of hotly debated issues from [fuel management](#) to [short term vehicle hire](#) to the ubiquitous [company car policy](#). We've also looked at the risks associated with [grey fleet cash takers](#) and how [salary sacrifice](#) can enhance your benefits package and help attract and retain the best people.

Each time, we've given practical advice to help SMEs navigate their way in the most cost effective and relevant manner. It's clear that SMEs have different needs to large fleets, so it's important that the services they access

– and the providers they choose – focus on delivering solutions that are both relevant and accessible.

We hope you have enjoyed this year's series of monthly articles and that it has given you lots of ideas on managing your business vehicles.

To conclude the year, this month you can download a FREE copy of [Managing your company cars in 9 easy steps by Colin Tourick](#), produced for Lombard Vehicle Solutions. This easy-to-use guide complements the advice given over the last year and offers lots of extra detail on how to keep your small fleet running efficiently. It's the ideal way to start 2015 if you're considering new cars for your business....

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If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

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