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RAC calls on supermarkets to cut another 2p a litre off fuel as wholesale price of fuel continues to tumble

The RAC is making a fresh plea to Britain's big four supermarkets to cut at least another 2p a litre off petrol and diesel following further reductions in the wholesale cost of fuel.

Following the RAC's appeal for a 3p pump price cut last week the supermarkets responded with cuts of varying levels with Asda leading the way with an initial 2p a litre reduction. While this has helped bring costs down, the effect has not been as powerful as it could have been because of

the way supermarkets price their fuel in different parts of the country.

The average price paid for supermarket fuel has only reduced by a penny a litre, with petrol moving from 119.46p (8 February) to 118.46p yesterday (13 February) while diesel has gone down from 121.83p to 120.84p.

Unfortunately, the average price of fuel paid across all UK forecourts has hardly changed, reducing by around 0.5p a litre to 121.53p for unleaded and 124.21p for diesel.

Since the RAC's call for a cut on Thursday last week the price of oil has fallen even further and now stands at \$61.46 – its lowest price since mid-November last year. And, with the sterling/dollar exchange rate slightly stronger (\$1.38) than it was then (\$1.32) the wholesale price retailers pay to buy their fuel is considerably lower, which should pave the way for deeper forecourt price cuts.

RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams said: "In order to be fair to motorists the big four supermarket fuel retailers should really make further cuts as the wholesale price is still falling. There is clearly scope for both petrol and diesel to be slashed by another 2p a litre at least. We hope they are not resting on their laurels, thinking they've done enough to keep motorists quiet by announcing some cuts last week when the wholesale price continues to go lower and lower.

"Unfortunately, despite the supermarkets announcing cuts, RAC Fuel Watch data clearly shows that the average price of fuel sold at supermarkets hasn't yet gone down by that much. This goes to show that several supermarkets operate regional pricing models rather than charging their customers the same price wherever they are, or indeed having price caps which guarantee customers pay a set amount or lower wherever they are in the country.

"This is very important for the UK average prices as it means other retailers near to supermarkets don't have to respond to their rivals' lower prices. We believe this is why the UK average fuel price hasn't gone down as much as it really should have.

"For that reason we also urge all fuel retailers to reduce their prices, however we do realise that it is not as easy for smaller operators as they do not sell the same volumes that the supermarkets do. This is why it takes longer for reductions in the wholesale price to filter through to all the country's 8,400

forecourts.”

Notes to Editors

About the RAC

First formed in 1897 the RAC has been looking after the needs of its members and championing the interests of motorists for more than 120 years.

Today it has more than eight million members and is one of the UK’s most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it’s roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist’s champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level. This includes voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring, particularly the price of fuel and the high level of tax levied on it, advancing levels of road safety, and supporting the needs of all drivers, from young to old.

The RAC’s annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today’s motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). RAC Fuel Watch is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members’

- vehicles going again
92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts



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