

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA OUTSIDE DOWNING STREET
ON MOTABILITY ON 19 NOVEMBER

PRIME MINISTER: I might just say a word about Motability. It has been in existence just over two years now, supported as you can see by all Parties, the brainchild of Lord Goodman and Mr. Sterling. It was really founded to try to help people to get about more easily and to enable them to use their weekly Motability or Travelling Allowance to try to help them purchase a car. Now next week their allowance goes up to £14.50 and the people who founded Motability ^{thought that} if only that allowance could be used to lease a car and helped to find the money for a deposit and the insurance Lord Goodman and Mr. Sterling got together a lot of car manufacturers, ~~a B.L. car~~, a Ford car, a Vauxhall car and a Talbot car. All of them have tried to cut their prices right down to the bone and some dealers have helped. Bankers have been found to lend money as cheaply as possible and insurance companies for insuring as cheaply as possible, and even then where there wasn't quite enough money there is an organisation set up to help. All of this means that people can use their weekly allowance to run a car. It is of inestimable help to them. For some it means they can get out to work more easily, for some it means that they are not confined to their own homes, they can get out and about with their families. So this really a very good thing. Now in two years Motability have managed to hand over nearly 10,000 cars and somewhere along these four today is the 10,000th and giving very great pleasure to all these people. I ^{do} stress again it was the brain child of people who's only desire is to/something constructive and positive to help those who are disabled to get about and it is a typical partnership between what the nation does by giving a Motability or a much simpler word would be a Travel Allowance to people who are disabled and others who said let's make maximum use of that by doing everything we can. So I think it is a real success story. I was just asked whether it was a human story or an economic story. I think the real motivated reason was really the human one - to enable people to get about. It does of course have an economic side to it as well because it means that

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people can work who otherwise couldn't. You might say that was pure economics, I think it is more a question of human dignity. So today the 10,000th handover and we hope to go from strength to strength.